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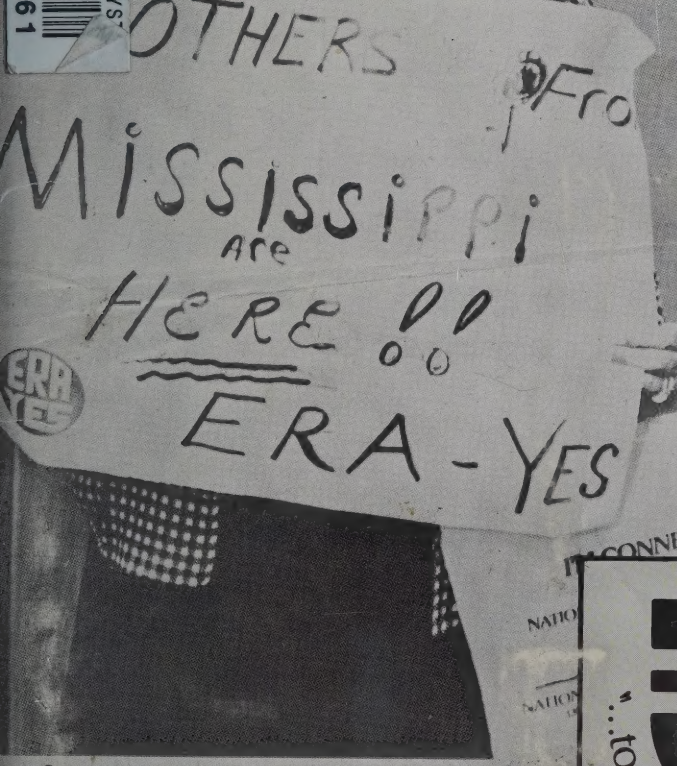

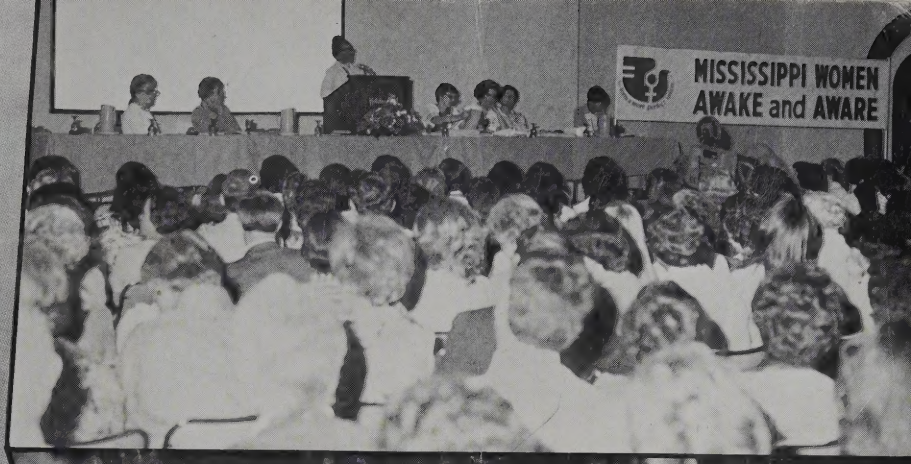

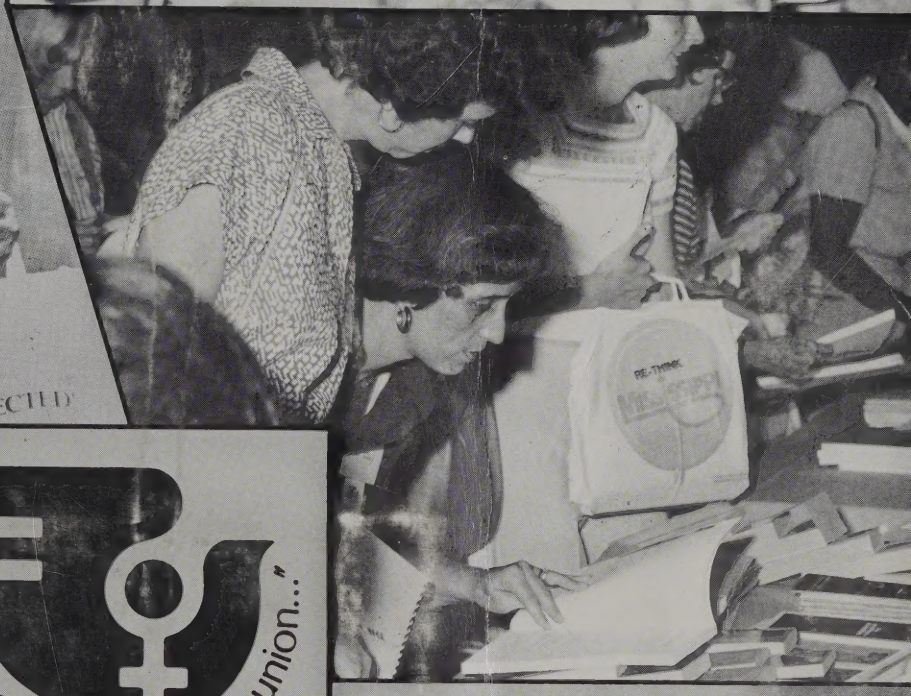

Mrs. Melerson Dunham...
...the sign tells the story

"...to form a more perfect union..."

Dunham from Tylertown

Alternate delegate featured in Texas paper at IWY event

's Note- The following article
ten by Carol Barnes and ap-
n the Houston (Tex.) Post
e International Women's Year
e last week. Mrs. Melerson
f Tylertown was an alternate

It had been mostly black women who organized the state conference where five men and 15 women were elected delegates, Dunham explained.

They had expected only about 00 to attend their confere

criticized at the conference Saturday by a Pennsylvania delegate because she said it was all white and had

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Washington, D.C.

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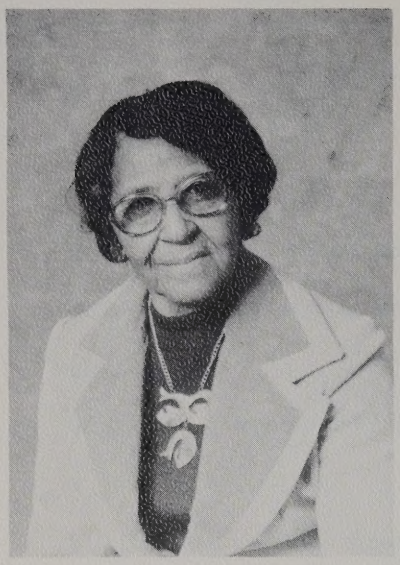


Letter From The Chair

Mississippi International Women's Year Coordinating Committee

Jessie B. Mosley

Dorothy I. Height, President of the National Council of Negro conducted a Symposium of International Women in the State of Mississippi in 1975. The group was made up of thirty-three women from several states in Africa. These women were returning to Washington by way of Mississippi from the International Womans' Year Convention in Mexico City.

It was our pleasure to conduct a tour through the Mississippi Delta to let them meet first hand women on the same economic level as some of them. Here the women learned how our women coped with their problems.

We had a tour of the Governor's mansion with the Governor's wife serving as hostess. The local Section of the National Council of Negro Women arranged an Independence Day celebration, where women Black and White from over the state came to help celebrate the occasion.

The next two years have brought many contacts with women from many lands. I never dreamed in '75 I would become the Chairperson of the International Womans' Year Coordinating Committee for the State of Mississippi. The experience of serving as Chair of this great movement has helped me realize what my life has been and is all about -- I am a Humanist. "Webster's Third New International Dictionary" defines the term as "a person who is devoted to human welfare" . . .

I now realize the International Woman's Year is a Humanist Movement concerned with the welfare of every woman, man and child of every classification in every condition, concerned with every Race and Nationality on every land. To be more specific we are concerned about the battered wife, the abused child, the discouraged student. We are concerned about their social, economic and legal rights; we are concerned about freedom from sex discrimination.

The culmination of our efforts in our State meeting and the finale at our meeting in Houston, Texas were mountain top experiences and a fitting climax to the International Journey begun in 1975.

Thanks to the International Womans' Year Commission, Washington, D.C. for helping to make experiences possible for all women and especially Mississippi Women "fers and aginners," to be apart of "Women on the Move."

Thanks again to the Members of the Mississippi I.W.Y. Coordinating Committee for their support. Thanks to the members of the Speical Project Committee who believed with me that a "beginning could be made," to gather historical materials about womens' progress past and present.

PREFACE

As a part of Mississippi's recognition of International Women's Year, it was felt that an attempt should be made to acknowledge the contributions of Mississippi women to the movement. In an effort to compile the information, it was discovered that very few facts were readily available. To cover all the developments that took place in the lives of Mississippi women would be impossible in this project. Of necessity, many details were omitted; however, enough information is reported to show the impact that Mississippi women had in the state, nation and world. In addition, this study points out some of their involvement and it indicates some future trends. Enough information information was collected to indicate that many women of different cultures contributed significantly to this development. This project represents some of what was discovered. Limited resources and personnel prevent this publication from being an all-inclusive story of Mississippi women who contributed to the causes of women. The compilers apologize to all who should have been included but were not. Much remains to be done. Those of us who form the Special Projects Committee have dedicated ourselves to continuing this investigation by assisting others who may wish to project these past and present concerns of women.

—— Jessie Mosley, *Chair*

DEDICATION

To the memory of the pioneer and contemporary women who have participated in the long struggle from the pioneer days and the Women's Rights Movement in 1848 to 1978, the present, to help make more evident the necessary confrontation for educational, political, religious, socio-economic and human rights against formidable obstacles in order to open the way for women of our time.

To women who have used their influence to make a difference in the lives of others and in lives for themselves.

To all persons who seek to provide equality of opportunity for all human beings, irrespective of race, sex, religious and socio-economic backgrounds.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mississippi Department of Archives and History

Jackson State University Oral History Program

Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs

Evelyn Gandy, Lieutenant Governor

Heber Ladner, Secretary of State

IWY Special Projects Committee

"It is not the critic who counts, not the woman who points out how the strong woman stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the woman who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes up short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and expends herself in a worthy cause; who at best knows, in the end, the triumph of high achievement; and who at the worst, if she fails, at least fails while doing greatly; so that her place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither defeat nor victory."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT

(Paraphrased by substituting feminine gender for masculine gender)

Profiles of Mississippi IWY Coordinating Committee Members

JESSIE B. MOSLEY of Jackson. National Parliamentarian and State Convenor of the National Council of Negro Women; Chair of the Committee on Property Development, Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs; President, Ministers' Wives; Recording Secretary for the National Convocation of the Christian Church; a charter member of the local branch of the National Association for the Study of Negro Life and History; Chairperson of the Social Committee, Mississippi Alumni Association of Schools of Alcohol and Drug Studies.

UNITA BLACKWELL of Mayersville. Mayor; Board member, Sharkey-Issaquena Improvement Association; Life member, National Council of Negro Women.

DIANNE DANLEY of Greenville. Secretary, Board of Directors, Mississippi Action for Community Education, Inc. (MACE); Member, Church Women United; Member and Trustee, Mercy Street M.B. Church.

MELERSON GUY DUNHAM of Tylertown. Conference President, United Methodist Women; First Vice President, Mississippi Association of Colored Women's Clubs; County Chairman of the Loyalist Democratic Party; Executive Secretary, Afro American Historical Society.

NANCY EIDT of Natchez. Recording Secretary of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers.

KATHIE S. GILBERT of Starkville. Associate Professor of Economics, Mississippi State University; Mississippi Division Legislative Chairman, American Association of University Women; and Outstanding Young Woman of America in 1976.

MIRTES GREGORY of Jackson. Past President, Sophisticated Lavarette Civic Club; President, Ritzy Ebonette Civic Club; Past President and Counsellor, Upper 100 Hair Dressers Club.

CLAIRE COLLINS HARVEY of Jackson. Past National President, Church Women United; Past Chair of Unit Three, Education of Renewal of the World Council of Churches; Recipient of 1976 International Upper Room Citation for Noteworthy World-Wide Christian Fellowship.

BOBBYE HENLEY of Jackson. State Legislative Chair, League of Women Voters; Coordinator of the First Mississippi Women's Day in 1973; State Coordinator for the Equal Rights Amendment in 1974; member, Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Civil Rights Commission.

MARIE L. HERNANDEZ of Vicksburg. Past President, Mississippi Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; member, Governor's Commission on the Status of Women and the Mississippi Women's Cabinet of Public Affairs.

BETTY JO HINES of Greenville. Immediate Past President, Church Women United; Program Director, Headstart; member, Democratic party.

SARAH H. JOHNSON of Greenville. Member, Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Governor's Family Planning Advisory Council; Sub-Area Advisory Council of the Mississippi Health Systems Agency; Greenville City Councilwoman.

KAREN M. KESTER of Gulfport. State Coordinator, National Organization for Women; Acting State Coordinator of the Alliance for Displaced Homemakers; Past President, Gulf Coast Chapter, National Organization for Women.

ANN B. McALLISTER of Columbus. Dean of Students, Mississippi University for Women; Executive Committee member, Southern College Personnel Association; Board of Directors, Chamber of Commerce; Advisory Board of Directors, National Bank of Commerce.

NATALIE L. MASON of Biloxi. Member, Board of Trustees, State Department of Youth Services; Secretary, Harrison County Association for Mental Health; member, Mississippi Chapter and the National Association of Certified Social Workers.

JANICE MOOR of Greenwood. Past President and First Vice President, National Association of Junior Auxiliaries; member, Board of Governors, Greenwood Little Theatre; Secretary to the Board, Greater Greenwood Foundation of the Arts, Chair, Leflore County Unit of American Cancer Society.

CORA NORMAN of Oxford. Executive Director, Mississippi Committee for the Humanities; National Board member, American Association of University Women; President, Mississippi Women's Cabinet of Public Affairs.

MILDRED NORRIS of Hattiesburg. Past President, Mississippi Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Past Chair, Governor's Commission on the Status of Women; Past First Vice President, National Association of Commissions for Women; Former Board President, Young Women's Christian Association, Hattiesburg.

BARBARA S. PITTMAN of Yazoo City. Member, National Nominating Committee, Young Women's Christian Association; Vice President of Board of Directors, Yazoo County Chapter, American Red Cross; member, American Association of Health, Physical Education and Recreation.

MARY RAMBERG of Jackson. Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Mississippi; member, Mississippi Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights.

KATHERINE REA of University. Past President of State Board, League of Women Voters; Past President, Committee on Women, American Association of University Women in Mississippi; President-elect, Mississippi College Personal Association Board; Charter member, North Mississippi Chapter, National Organization for Women.

SALLY-ANN ROBERTS of Hattiesburg. Member, National Federation of Press Women; Mississippi Press Women and Mayor's Committee on the Status of Women in Hattiesburg.

JENNIFER SHAALAN of Corinth. President, Mississippi Chapter, Friends of Children of Vietnam; Member, American Montessori Society; Member, Montessori International Association.

CONSTANCE IONA SLAUGHTER of Forest. Executive Director, Southern Legal Rights Association, Inc.; member, National Board of Women's Action Alliance and of the Regional Board of American Friends Service Committee; member, Mississippi Action for Progress Inc.

DOROTHY TAYLOR of Jackson. Chairman, English Department, St. Joseph High School; member, National Teacher's Association; member, Daughters of the American Revolution; Representative for the Diocese of Natchez-Jackson.

WILLIE MAE LATHAM TAYLOR of Grenada. National Supervisor, Girls Clubs of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs; President, Southeastern Association of Colored Women; President, State Home Demonstration Agents Association; President, Mississippi Federation of Colored Women's and Girl's Clubs, Inc.

HELEN B. TEDFORD of Marks. Co-Chair, Mississippi Delegation to the National Democratic Convention; Chair, Heart Fund for Quitman County; member, Mississippi Democratic Executive Committee; member, Mississippi Retail Merchants Association.

CLEOPATRA D. THOMPSON of Jackson. Distinguished Professor of Education and former Dean, School of Education, Jackson State University; member, International Council on Education for Teaching; liaison officer, Teacher Education Committee, Southern Regional Education Board.

MARY D. WELCH of Meridian. 1970 boss of the Year, Meridian Chapter, National Secretaries Association; member, Mississippi and National Extension Home Economists Associations; member, Meridian Chamber of Commerce.

GENEVA BROWN WHITE of Jackson. Retired Classroom teacher; active in the Young Women's Christian Association, United Methodist Women; American Association of University Women; League of Women Voters; Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

THELMA S. ZINNER of Biloxi. President, Mental Health Association of Harrison County; President, Mississippi Gulf Coast Unit, Nationa Council of Jewish Women; Past Chairman, Mississippi Gulf Coast Chapter, American Red Cross.

Special Project Committee

The National IWY Committee authorized the Mississippi IWY Coordinating Committee to prepare and submit a special publication in order to offset the adverse publicity on Mississippi by showing the many outstanding women in this state and their contributions on behalf of women.

Limited resources and personnel kept this publication from being an all-inclusive story of Mississippi women who helped others. The compilers apologize to all who should have been included but were not.

Jessie B. Mosley, Chair

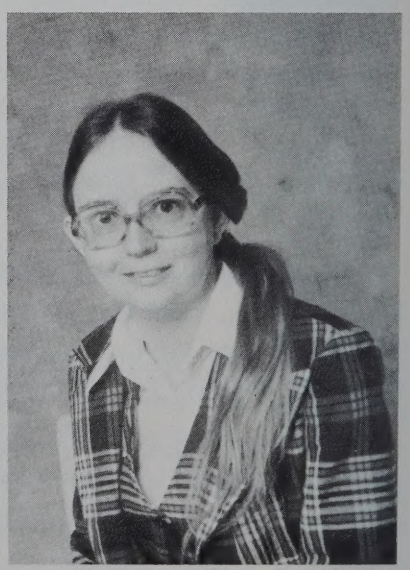
Jean Muirhead
Attorney at Law

Alferdteen Harrison
Associate Professor of History
Jackson State University

Cleopatra Thompson
Distinguished Professor
Jackson State University

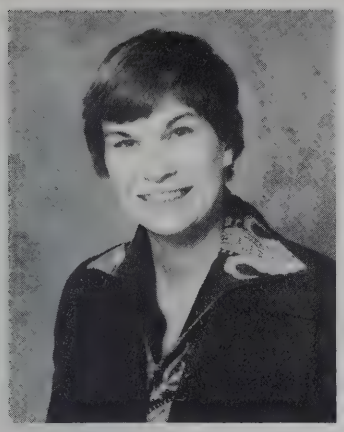
Editor: Dr. Clara L. Grochowska

DR. CLARA L. GROCHOWSKA, SFCC, BA, MA, Ph.D holds the title of Professor of Modern Foreign Languages at Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi. She has edited numerous publications both in her native state of Pennsylvania and in Mississippi. Her current research is in the field of Faulkner studies -- THE ASSESSMENT OF WILLIAM FAULKNER IN POLAND. This work resulted in her making two trips to Poland to gather materials and consult with Polish scholars. She is the author of numerous research articles and the holder of two awards, one from the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education and one from the School of Education, Jackson State University. She is a board member of the National Coalition of American nuns.



Dr. Sarah J. Banks

Dr. Sarah J. Banks is Associate Professor of Spanish at Jackson State University, Jackson, Ms. She is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Allegheny College and received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Southern California. Dr. Banks belongs to the American Association of University Women, National Council of Negro Women, Capitol Business and Professional Women's Club and the National Organization for Women. In both 1976 and 1977 she was selected as an Outstanding Young Woman of America.



Jean Muirhead

Cora Norman

Merlerson Guy Dunham

Cleopatra Thompson

CRITIQUING PROJECT

Left to Right: Helen Bernfield, Jean Muirhead, Merlerson Guy Dunham, Jessie B. Mosley, Cleopatra Thompson, Sarah Banks, Clara Grochowska, Bobby Oats.

HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES

By
Jessie B. Mosley

During the years of Territorial life the woman was faceless. The Indian squaw did all of the work, prepared the food, washed the clothes, cared for the children and followed meekly behind her husband. An Indian marriage was a picturesque affair.[1] Engagements were usually arranged by the groom's mother and the bride's uncle, not by the boy and the girl. At the marriage ceremony the bride made a pretense of running away, and the groom had to capture her -- a last chance for either party to get out of a bad bargain. The captured bride was seated on the ground and showered with presents, none of which she could keep, for her women relatives snatched them, often bruising the bride in the process. After the marriage, the wife was never allowed to speak her husband's name. Instead, she referred to him indirectly by using the children's names, as "so-and-so's father". Also, the mother-in-law and son-in-law, when they journeyed, together, the woman had to walk with her eyes closed!

There were four other classes of faceless or nameless women, the plantation owner's wife, the poor man's wife, the Fecundus slave women and the Dance Hall girl.

Some of the first women imported to the Territory were the "casket girls", so called because they were taken from French orphanages and equipped with little boxes (cassettes) containing a wedding outfit so that they would be ready for marriage in the New World. The first shipment of ninety-eight casket girls arrived at Biloxi in January, 1721. They were all quickly married.[2]

Depending on the man she married, determined which class the casket girl fell into. If she married a planter she probably became the mistress of a large mansion, with lots of house servants, grand entertainment, fine dresses, many children and a loving husband.

If she married a poor farmer of the "Piney Woods" counties of Mississippi, she, her husband and children probably would be almost totally uneducated. They would have little use for money, subsisting on the products of their little patches and cows, pigs and fowls. The women spun and wove by hand all of the family clothing.

If one of the casket girls remained single, it is possible that she became one of the girls who furnished entertainment in the various houses provided for that kind of life.

While the Fecundus Slave woman became the bearer of many children who grew up to become field hands or if she was fortunate enough to be one of the house maids, her children might just become house boys or carriage drivers, while their mother continued to look after the children of the big house providing whatever services necessary.[3]

Before the Civil War, women came to the front in education and in the press. The Elizabeth Female Academy in Washington, Ms. was established in 1819 on land donated by Mrs. Elizabeth Greenfield Roach, for whom the academy was named. The first diploma was given to Miss Sarah Catherine Weeks in 1830, according to the State Archives Department.

Harriett N. (Patrick) Prewitt (Mrs. M.N.) was born in Albany, New York, in 1820. She was educated at the famous Troy Female Seminary then operated by Mrs. Emma Willard. In 1839 she came to Mississippi and was married at Canton, Mississippi, to M.N. Prewitt in 1841, editor of the Canton **Creole.** He then became editor and proprietor of the Natchez, Mississippi, **Courier** until 1847. During this period Mrs. Prewitt assisted her husband in his journalistic duties. In January, 1849, they went to Yazoo City to take charge of the **Yazoo City Whig.** His health failed soon afterward, and she ran the paper until his death, when she took sole charge of it. In 1855 she changed the name of the paper to the **Weekly American Banner.** In 1859 she became ill, but she did not die until November 25, 1883. She was considered a brilliant political writer and an excellent poet.[4]

---

[1] John K. Betterheath, **Mississippi History.** Stock Co., 1960, p. 36.

[2] Ibid., pp. 78.

[3] Susan Dabney Smedes, **Memories of a Southern Planter.**

[4] "History of Yazoo County, Mississippi," WPA Historical Research Project (typescript).

The Civil War was a great equalizer. It was at this time that one of the earliest signs of a women's movement began. Strangely enough it did not begin with the rich plantation owner's wife but it began with a woman from the "Piney Woods" counties. The burdens of the War wore heavily on some of the soldiers who felt that they did not really have anything to fight for and some were outright rebellious. There were women who felt the same.

Although the hardships of life in the Piney Woods stirred some of the women of this region into rebellion, the patriotism of the women appears to have been the rule rather than the exception. In fact, in making clothing for the soldiers and in nursing the sick and wounded they performed an indispensable service. Not all, of course, possessed the spectacular zeal of Sallie Eola Reneau, the crusader for female higher education. She undertook to assemble a company of "Mississippi Nightingales", who were to wear military uniforms, travel about equipped with side arms and receive the **same wages as the soldiers.**[5]

The first labor union in Mississippi was formed by black women on June 20, 1866. Called "The Washerwomen of Jackson", the organization sent a resolution to Jackson's Mayor Barrows which said, in part:

That on and after the foregoing date, we join in charging a uniform rate for our labor, . . . the statement of said price to be made public by printing the same, and any one, belonging to the class of washerwomen, violating this, shall be liable to a fine regulated by the class.

Eliza Poitevant Holbrook, a native of Pearlington, Hancock County, was the first woman to publish a metropolitan newspaper in the United States, and the woman who opened the field of journalism to women. (New Oreleans Picayune, 1876)

Mississippi State College for Women (Mississippi University for Women) was incorporated in March 12, 1884 and had its first graduates in 1889.

The Civil Rights movement of the sixties found women of all ages and color involved in Wednesdays in Mississippi. Women came in pairs from different states to help Mississippi women re-establish the lines of communication between the races. Women quietly visited within the city and state, talking with individuals. As silently as the lines were broken, they were restored.

Once women had the air cleared for better communication, Catholic women, Jewish women, Protestant women, white and black women united in a movement to improve the educational and economic conditions of girls from low income families. Women volunteered in the WICS program to screen girls for the Job Corps. Girls were sent from all sections of Mississippi to centers in Ohio, Texas, Omaha and many other places. Many girls graduated and found jobs in other states. Some returned home, finished college and found gainful employment. The Volunteer Director of the program was Jessie Mosley, Assistant Jane Schutt and paid office worker, Carrie Benson.

[5] Richard Aubrey McLemore, ed., **A History of Mississippi.** Hattiesburg: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1973, Vol. 1, p. 517.

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OPPOSITION TO SUFFRAGE

"Bolsheviks, Reds, I.W.W.'s Mormons, Socialists, are all for Woman Suffrage, hoping to so weaken our government by feminism and petti coated politicians that its fall will be easy."

CLARION-LEDGER
JANUARY 13, 1920

"WE PLEAD IN THE NAME OF THESE LITTLE ONES." CLARION-LEDGER JANUARY 13, 1920

"Buzz, little suffragets, buzz away, you'll be a voter som other day when the voters of Mississippi decide to honor you with the elective franchise; but never under the Susan B. (Anthony) Amendment."

CLARION LEDGER
JANUARY 13, 1920

". . as for the women of the South, they cannot be conquered."

ULYSSES S. GRANT

"We the undersigned wom en of Mississippi do earnestly petition the honorable mem bers of the State legislature that they decline to ratify the Susan B. Anthony amend ment which violates the time honored principle of State's Rights and that they pre serve our beloved State the right to make its own suffrage laws and the right to enforce the same."

CLARION LEDGER
JANUARY, 1920

BILBO SUPPORTS SUFFRAGE

"If our women are willing to go to the front line trenches as nurses, motor truck drivers, and burden bearers, facing shot and shell, administering the last rites to our dying soldiers on the battle fields, if they can be our partners in these sacrifices, I for one am ready and willing to let them be our partners in the solution of the great sociological problems in the days of reconstruction and adjustment that lie ahead of us...; we need the saving grace of the Godly women of our State and Republic to help us lay the foundations for a new and better social and governmental life for our people."

THEODORE BILBO
JANUARY, 1920

"Woe to the man who raises his voice or hand against the onward sweep of this cause that means so much to the moral and social life of our State and Nation."

THEODORE BILBO
JANUARY, 1920

"The Negroes are manifesting no interest whatever in polit ical affairs... and there is no more danger of Negro wom en in this state attempting to vote than there is of Negro men attempting to vote."

JACKSON DAILY NEWS
JANUARY, 1920

VOTES FOR WOMEN

DISFRANCHISEMENT FOR WOMEN
Should be voluntary, not compulsory?

VOTING DATA DATELINE

Prior to
- 1890 - Mississippi women not really interested in vote
  - Vote issue ironically brought up by men trying to minimize the significance of the Negro vote

August
- 1890 - Convention in Jackson called for women's right to vote (women whose husbands owned 300 dollars of Mississippi real estate) - no concession made by legislature
  - Sentiment attracted National American Woman Suffrage Asso
- 1897 - Formation of Mississippi Woman Suffrage Asso. Mrs. Nellie Nugent Somerville - President and Miss Belle Kearney - Vice President
- 1907 - After a decade of fitful starts, Belle Kearney rallied support for movement - set up 11 clubs across the state
- 1914 - Suffrage booth set up at state fair - ridiculed by exhibit of a sexless chicken mothering a group of chicks
  - Appeal to House of Representatives again defeated

January
- 1920 - National Democratic Party urged ratification of Woman Suffrage Amendment

January 21
- 1920 - Amendment defeated 106 to 25 by Mississippi legislature

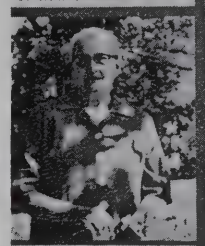
August
- 1920 - With Tennessee's ratification, amendment became part of Constitution

VOL. 1 Miss IWY-1977 Ms NO 4

MISSISSIPPI FIRST STATE TO UPHOLD PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

In the ever present controversy of women's rights a case decision was made on February 15, 1839 dealing with property rights of women. Upon the death of Major John L. Allen, his creditors attempted to seize a slave given to his wife Betty Love Allen by her Indian father. The Supreme Court ruled in Mrs. Allen's favor basing its decision on the Chickasaw law of inheritance, which provided legal ownership of property by the female. The rule also stated that the wife is not liable for debts assumed by her husband prior to marriage, making a precedent for women's property rights, the first of its kind in the United States. The Honorable Robert Josselyn not alone in his opposition, claimed that the passage of the bill would result in threats to domestic happiness, creating separate interests for husband and wife. Others felt that the passage of the bill was due to the lobbying of a bankrupt legislator who wanted to protect his prospective wife, a rich widow, from his creditors.

ZA JANE POITEVENT
Pearlington (1849-1896)
First woman owner-publisher of a major daily newspaper in United States (Daily Picayune of New Orleans)



FLORA HAMBLETT
Oxford (1895-1977)
Nationally recognized primitive painter

WARTIME JOBS

World War II opened up areas of work to women that had been closed before: they drove buses, worked in industry and service related jobs, and filled positions previously filled predominantly by men.

After World War II, women began to play active roles in politics (both state and local), and in professional careers (medicine, law, architecture). They also entered the work force in transportation, industry, and even served on police forces.

NATION'S FIRST MEMORIAL DAY IN MISSISSIPPI

The very first Memorial Day took place on April 26, 1866. Ladies of Columbus, Mississippi, belonging to an organization of heroines, widows, and relatives of Civil War veterans marched in procession to clear the graves of both Union and Confederate soldiers, and decorated them with flowers. This event is now practiced nation wide to commemorate the loss of American lives in all wars.

RST LABOR UNION

One may think that the ea of a labor union is a latively modern concept, it according to records, e earliest known Missis ppi labor union was or- nized on June 20, 1866 by group of washerwomen Jackson struggling a- inst the Black Code im ed on them by post ivery politics. They nded together, establish g uniform rates for their rvices, and charging es for those accepting s than the set wage.

"PETTICOAT" INSURRECTION

Iberville and Bienville, French explorers, established the first settlement in Mississippi near Ocean Springs and began the slow process of bringing settlers into the area. Life was hard and French peasants refused to come to the Louisiana colony. In 1706 a financial group arranged with orphanages to send to the new settlement "casket girls" (because their belongings were packed in small trunks called cassettes). Twenty three young french girls arrived under the care of Sister Jane Morbe and were immediately provided with homes and husbands. The hardships appalled them in short time and they threatened to abandon the colony if they were not supplied with wheat bread instead of corn meal.

Bienville suggested placing the young women under the tutelage of Madame Langlois, a woman skilled in the adaptation of native foods, and soon the Indian's food, corn, had been adopted.

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WOMEN IN BONDAGE

Blacks were forcibly brought to the Mississippi territory by the French as early as 1719 and began the harsh life of servitude which lasted for over six generations.

Slave women were assigned either to the house or to the fields. House slaves worked as cooks, seamstresses, housekeepers, maids, nurses, and gardeners. Their living conditions were considered superior to the field slaves. House slaves were sometimes taught how to read and write, given the same menu as their master, instructed in etiquette and occasionally given traveling privileges with the white family. More often than not the "Mammy" was the most influential individual on a plantation. She not only exercised unchallenged authority over the other house slaves but was instrumental in directing the physical care, manners, and morals of the master's young children.

Field slaves worked as much as sixteen hours a day, from daybreak to dark. The only break from their toil was for lunch and a brief rest. During the winter season slaves were hired out for other labors in addition to preparing the fields for the next season. Children helped the house servants or worked along side their parents in the fields.

CIVIL WAR & HOMEFRONT

"There is nothing these women will not give up with a smile, the fine ring, the diamond bracelet, the rich wardrobe. They cut up their carpets for blankets and take the linen from their persons for bandages without a sigh. When four hundred of Long street's men came up to Nashville's prisoners of war, about the roughest, dirtiest fellows the sun ever shone on and a flight of stairs fell, killing and wounding a numbers of them, you should have seen the young traitresses come forth from aristocratic homes, bringing restoratives and delicacies, mingling with the dirty crowd, wiping away the blood with their white handkerchiefs and uttering words of cheer and smiling back on their rough rebels as they left. And all these girls were in black for dead rebels, whom they had sneered into treason and billowed all the South with graves. They are fearfully in earnest, they are almost grand in self sacrifice. Would they were loyal daughters of the flag."

CHICAGO JOURNAL

"I never was made to crst underground, and when I am obliged to, what wonder that I vegetate, like other unfortunate plants - grow wan, spindling, and white!... and what suffering,... the deafening noise of shells... scattering death in all direction."

MY CAVE LIFE IN VICKSBURG

FRONTIER WOMEN ENDURE HARDSHIPS

More than half the population of frontier Mississippi consisted of pioneer families who owned no slaves. These settlers lived in log cabin structures usually located on the more affordable lands less accessible to the waterways. Farming on small agricultural plots, the life of pioneers was one of endless toil with few opportunities for social and cultural contact. The women were responsible for cooking, washing, milking, churning, weaving, spinning, sewing, helping with field work, gardening, raising poultry, drying fruits, gathering herbs, picking geese for feather beds, and rearing children.

WPA FOLKLORE JOURNAL

WOMAN'S SUFFRAGE MOVEMENT IN MISSISSIPPI

by
Sarah Banks

Interest in the woman's suffrage movement was expressed as early as June 17, 1853. According to a letter printed in the Yazoo City **Weekly Whig,** Mrs. Harriet N. Prewitt, the editor and publisher, had expressed an intention of attending the National Woman's Rights Convention to be held that summer.[1] She often expressed her views concerning women's rights in the **Weekly Whig,** printing a long editorial on the issue Friday, March 24, 1854, the theme of which was "Tall oaks from little acorns grow." The editorial ends with the question "Where will the Woman's Rights movement stop?" Not an advocate of woman's voting, Mrs. Prewitt expressed her position in the following manner in the same article: "...For ourself it is well known that we are no advocate of the so-called Woman's Rights, and we only write this as an indication of the spirit of the times..." Opposing woman's suffrage, she averred that "The truth is, we would not vote if we could. There are every two years in Mississippi about ten thousand candidates turned loose over the State, and they are all such soft spoken gentlemanly liberal fellows, it would break our heart to vote against any of them."[2]

No further mention of woman's suffrage seems to have occurred in Mississippi until 1888 when Mrs. Zerelda Wallace delivered twenty lectures in twenty towns in Mississippi. In May, 1891, The Mississippi Woman's Christian Temperance Union met in the annual convention in Brookhaven. The advisability of adopting a suffrage department was debated at length in committee but it was not adopted.

In 1890, during the state constitutional convention, woman's suffrage was discussed together with the question of Negro suffrage. Much literature on woman's suffrage was distributed to the delegates at the convention at which the motion to include woman's suffrage came within one vote of being adopted by the committee. In 1897 Mrs. Mary C. Bradford, State Superintendent of Public Institutions in Colorado, gave several lectures in Mississippi assisting in the organization of suffrage clubs.[3]

The first woman suffrage convention in Mississippi was held in Meridian in 1897. Nellie N. Somerville was elected state president and re-elected at the following year's convention which was held in Greenville. Minutes of the 1898 convention list the officers of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association as: Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville, Greenville, president; Miss Belle Kearney, Flora, vice president at large; Thomas Mount, Vicksburg, Judge W. A. Roane, Grenada, Mrs. G. W. Cox, Columbus, honorary vice presidents; Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson, Crystal Springs, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ella O. Biggs, Crystal Springs, recording secretary; Mrs. Mabel Pugh, Yazoo City, treasurer; Mrs. Hala Hammond Butt, Clarksdale, superintendent of press work; Mrs. S. Fannie Clary, Shannon, president, first congressional district; Mrs. Walter Clark, Clarksdale, president, third congressional district.

The same minutes in 1898 focus on eight woman suffrage clubs located in Vicksburg, Iuka, Greenville, Yazoo City, Columbus, Crystal Springs, Clarksdale and Flora. The following resolutions were presented:

> Whereas, the Constitution of the United States says, "All persons born or naturalized in the United States and subject to the jurisdiction thereof are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."
>
> First, That women are by the express terms of the Constitution, citizens, and as such, they have a right to exercise all the prerogatives of citizenship.
>
> Second, That as an association organized upon the basis of equal rights for all we pledge ourselves to use every available means in our power to obtain for the women of Mississippi the right of franchise.

– *"Letters to the Editor"*, **Yazoo City Weekly Whig**, June 17, 1853.

[2] Harriet N. Prewitt, "Woman's Rights: Female Voting", **Yazoo City Weekly Whig**, March 24, 1854.

[3] Belle Kearney, "The Fight for Suffrage by Women of Mississippi", **Jackson News**, May 14, 1914.

Third, That to effect this end an efficient organizer be employed to travel through the State to form Equal Rights Clubs, and hold business meetings to instruct members in the best methods of carrying on the work.

Fourth, In order to educate public sentiment up to the acceptance of the enfranchisement of women, it is urged that literature be freely distributed.

Fifth, That strenuous efforts be made to raise funds for the advancement of the suffrage movement and that a committee be appointed to devise ways and means.

Sixth, That a Superintendent be appointed for the Department of Legislation and Petition, and that a representative be sent to the session of the Legislature to present our claims.

Seventh, That oratorical contests be held among young people for material using the Yellow Ribbon Speaker and other Suffrage literature.

Eighth, That we co-operate heartily with the National Woman Suffrage Association, especially in their plans for holding conferences in the Southern States during the winter months.[4]

Because of ill health, Mrs. Somerville resigned from office early in 1899. Belle Kearney, vice president, consented to act as president until the next convention, which gathered April, 1899, in Clarksdale. Mrs. Hala Hammond Butt was elected president at that time.[5]

Since no convention of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association was held from 1899 to 1906, Miss Belle Kearney called a conference of Southern woman suffragists to meet December 19-20, 1906, in Memphis, Tennessee. This body issued the following statement of purpose:

Declaring our adherence to the principles of political liberty, guaranteed to the American people by the fundamental principles of our government, we affirm that they should not be limited to sex.

Believing that public affairs should be guided by the intelligent, we declare for suffrage with an educational qualification, and urge the enfranchisement of all women who can read and write.

We ask for the ballot as a solution of the race problem.

We ask for the ballot because students of industrial conditions affirm that our lack of direct political power is a factor in the comparatively low wages of the six million wage-earning women in our country.

We ask for the ballot as the strongest insurance against child labor under conditions destructive to the best development of the men and women of the future.

We recommend that women petition the Legislatures to grant them presidential suffrage, since the United States Constitution empowers each State to appoint presidential electors in such manner as the legislature thereof may direct.

We recommend, further, that legislatures be petitioned to submit to the electors constitutional amendments granting full suffrage to women.[6]

Mississippi woman suffragists held their third annual convention December 21, 1906, at the Edwards House in Jackson. The officers elected were: Miss Belle Kearney, president; Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville, vice president; Mrs. B. T. Hobbs, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Lilly Wilkinson Thompson, treasurer.

A resolution was adopted to endorse the Conference of Southern Women Suffragists held in Memphis. Its

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[4] Minutes of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, March 29-30, 1898.

[5] Ibid.

[6] Minutes of the Southern Woman Suffragists, December 19-20, 1906.

[7] Minutes of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, December 21, 1906.

statement of purpose as the Mississippi platform was to recommend that the next legislature of Mississippi be petitioned to submit to the electors a constitutional amendment granting full suffrage to the women of this state.[7]

The fourth annual meeting was held in Jackson, March 25-26, 1908, at the governor's mansion. At this gathering the president of the association was presented a gavel made from an oak tree which stood on the battlefield of Gettysburg. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville, Greenville, president; Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson, Jackson, vice president at large; Mrs. Fannie Clark, Okolona, first vice president; Mrs. Harriet B. Kells, Jackson, second vice president; Mrs. Pauline Alston Clark, Clarksdale, corresponding secretary; Dr. Delia Randall, Canton, recording secretary; Mrs. S. S. Wilkinson, Jackson, treasurer.

The following resolutions were adopted at the convention:

The Mississippi W.S.A. affirms its allegiance to the declaration of American Independence and insists that its principles shall be applied to women who are citizens of the United States.

We rejoice that full suffrage has been organized to four states in the west, in Finland, New Zealand and Australia; that municipal suffrage has been given to the women of Kansas, Great Britian and Canada; that school suffrage has been granted to twenty-two states; that great advancement has been made in the legal, political, professional, industrial, and educational rights of women around the world; that many of the leading periodicals of the day have recently given their support to the cause of equal rights, and that leading men everywhere recognize it as a vital question.

That we express our appreciation of the efforts made by Mr. Cavett, of Noxubee, during the recent session of the Mississippi Legislature to make women eligible to the office of county superintendents of education; also of the effort of Mr. Rowan, of Copiah, to secure for women equal pay with men for the same work.

That we deplore the fact that the age of consent for girls was not raised to 18 years, as is the case in each state in which women have been enfranchised.

That our grateful thanks be extended to the newspapers which have so courteously and kindly accepted contributions from the superintendent of press work during the last year, and to Governor and Mrs. Noel for the privilege of holding this meeting at the executive mansion.[8]

The minutes reveal that paid memberships and contributions in the association were made by persons residing in Clarksdale, Greenville, Yazoo City, Fayette, Jackson, Columbus, Crystal Springs, Biloxi and Mount Helena. Non-contributing memberships were held by persons residing in Vicksburg, Meridian, Iuka, Sardis, Corinth, Durant, Oxford, Minter City, Vaiden, Indianola, Lyon, Laurel, Columbia, McComb, West Point, Canton, Hernando, Starkville, Coahoma, Kilmichael, Duck Hill and Bay St. Louis.[9]

The fifth annual meeting was held April 8, 1909 in the ladies' parlor of the capitol building, Jackson. The officers for the year 1909 were Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville, Greenville, president; Miss Madge L. Montgomery, Starkville, vice president at large; Mrs. Jimmie Andrews Lipscomb, Flora, first vice president; Mrs. J. M. Lee, Greenville, corresponding secretary; Miss Mattie Kirkpatrick, Jackson, recording secretary; Mrs. Avery Harrell Thompson, Jackson, treasurer; Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson, Jackson, superintendent, press work; Mrs. S. Fannie Clark, Okolona, member, national executive committee.

The report of the corresponding secretary of this meeting revealed that communication had been established with the following places: Jackson, Greenville, Flora, Crystal Springs, Canton, Mount Helena, Willows, Clarksdale, Biloxi, Columbus, Booneville, Vicksburg, Natchez, Yazoo City, Martin, Durant, Kosciusko, Corinth, Shaw, Macon, Grenada, Ellisville, Pickens, Clinton, Holly Ridge, Okolona and Lyon. Clubs had been established in Jackson, Clarksdale, Greenville, Flora, Corinth and Columbus.

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[8] Minutes of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, March 25-26, 1908.

[9] Ibid.

The resolutions passed by the 1909 convention illustrate the widening scope of interest of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association: uniform child labor legislation, optional compulsory education and protective legislation in mines, factories and mills. The following resolutions were approved at the 1909 convention:

> The Woman Suffrage Association of Mississippi reaffirms its allegiance to the Declaration of American Independence; and insists that its principles be applied to women who are citizens of the United States.
>
> We rejoice that full suffrage has been secured in Finland, New Zealand, Australia, Norway, and the Isle of Man; that municipal suffrage has been given to women of Canada, Great Britian, Natal and Sweden; that unlimited franchise privileges have been bestowed upon the women of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah and Idaho; municipal suffrage to the women of Kansas; and that the legislatures of South Dakota, Michigan and Washington have voted to submit the question of woman suffrage to the votes of those commonwealths.
>
> We hold unswervingly to our ideal of securing an amendment to the Constitution of Mississippi, enfranchising women exactly upon the same basis as men.
>
> We endorse the resolutions adopted at the Conference just held in New Orleans to consider uniform Child Labor Legislation for the southern states; and hope that men and women of Mississippi will unite to protect the child life of the state from the greed of money mad commercialism, by crystallizing into law at the next session of the Legislature the resolutions of that conference.
>
> We favor Optional Compulsory Education, believing that no state can rise higher than the educational status of its people.
>
> We express our gratitude to the Legislature of 1908 for the advance along humanitarian lines in reducing the hours of working women and children in mines, factories and mills. We regret the fact that the age limit was not raised to fourteen years for children, and provision made for genuine factory inspection, by providing for officials whose duty it would be to see that the law is enforced; as we know under present conditions it is openly violated.
>
> We believe the public welfare demands that women should have a place upon the boards of trustees of all public institutions, educational and benevolent; and that the time has come for bringing the subject before the people of Mississippi.
>
> We further believe that a woman physician should be employed as one of the assistants in each of the insane asylums of this state.
>
> We call the attention of our fellow citizens of Mississippi to the fact that the fixing of the age of consent at twelve years means that a girl of that age has a legal right to lead an immoral life. We declare our unalterable opposition to this law, and pledge ourselves to do all in our power to have the age of consent put at eighteen years.[10]

Minutes for the sixth annual meeting held in 1910 are unavailable in the state archives, but the minutes for the 1911 convention reveal that the sixth annual meeting was held in Greenville and that the National Suffragist President, the Rev. Anna Shaw, had attended the convention held April 11-12, in Cleveland. The minutes of this convention point up the developing awareness of social issues on the part of Mississippi suffragists. Mrs. Dell Kelso Mohlenhoff read the report of the chairman of the health department which contained the following:

> 1st That our forces be organized through the State so that our campaign against the ravages of tuberculosis may be felt in every community.

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[10] Fifth Annual Report of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, 1909.

2nd That we petition the State Legislature that the necessary steps be taken toward the establishment of a State Tuberculosis Hospital for curables in the pine woods of Mississippi.

3rd That this organization take up in its health department measures looking toward the lowering of the death rate among the infants in the State.

4th That we petition the State Legislature that it pass a law making it compulsory for physicians to take the proper precautionary steps to insure against blindness in new born infants.

In addition, the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association declared that the principle of equal rights alone expressed the American ideal of self-government; as women governed and taxed, they demanded woman's enfranchisement by the States emphasizing principles of just government. The assembly resolved:

> That the Association rejoices in the enfranchisement of the women of the State of Washington. This enfranchisement places a new star on the Woman Suffrage Flag -- the only flag which symbolizes our national ideals;
>
> That we rejoice that the women of Washington are now equipped with the power to make them factors in controlling and directing the influences affecting woman's sphere -- the home;
>
> That we rejoice in the tremendous growth of the suffrage sentiment all over the civilized globe -- a sentiment which will enfranchise the women of other nationalities before those of the Unite States -- placing us in the ridiculous position of not applying the principles for which our fathers fought, bled and died;
>
> That the women of Mississippi will re-double their efforts to secure better legislation for women and children in the industrial world, to secure the extermination of the White Slave horror which blots our boasted 20th century civilization, and to this end we ask the co-operation of all women's organizations in the State;
>
> That we petition the Legislature to raise the age of consent, a state disgrace, from twelve to eighteen years of age;
>
> That we recommend the passage of a Child Labor Law conforming with the recommendations of the association known as the Southern Conference on Woman and Child Labor;
>
> That the next Legislature be petitioned to submit an amendment making women eligible to serve on State Boards of Education and as Trustees of benevolent institutions;
>
> That we heartily favor and will do all in our power to assist the movement for a State Reformatory for criminals under 21 years of age.[11]

The minutes of the seventh annual meeting indicated that the association now had three departments in active operation: press, health and education. Special exhibits had been sent to the Appalachian Exposition in Knoxville, the Tri-State Fair in Memphis and the Delta Fair. The display in Memphis consisted of two parts: the exhibit of the association and beside it a canvas which was to hold adverse newspaper comment. According to the minutes no one was able to secure any printed negative comments so only the empty canvas was displayed together with the exhibit.

Enrolled members of the association represented Greenville, Jackson, Vicksburg, Natchez, Columbus, Clarksdale, Clinton, Flora, Balfour, Yazoo City, Vaiden, West Point, Crystal Springs, Brookhaven, McComb, Gloster, Grenada, Corinth, Sharpsburg, Canton, Starkville, Coffeeville, Booneville, Sardis, Ellisville, Cleveland, Shaw, Tutwiler, Belen, Okolona, Hernando, Rienza, Arkabutla, Anguila, Askew and Tchula.

The eighth annual convention was held April 9-11, 1912, at the high school in Flora. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson, Jackson, president; Mrs. S. Fannie Clark, Okolona, first vice

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[11] Seventh Annual Meeting, Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, April 11-12, 1911.

president; Mrs. Annie Kinkead Dent, Yazoo City, second vice president; Mrs. Ella O. Biggs, Jackson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. F. R. Birdsall, Yazoo City, recording secretary; Mrs. Frances M. Durant, Coffeeville, treasurer.

The eighth annual report indicated that the membership of the association now encompassed fifty-one towns and cities of Mississippi. Regular notices of activities appeared in the press. The Greenville **Times** and the Greenville **Democrat** each devoted a weekly column to suffrage news. The Jackson **Evening News** also included columns on suffrage. Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson reported contributing fifty-five articles to the **Evening News** in 1911.

> The Flora convention restated their previous position on equal rights and further resolved:
>
> That this Association expresses its regrets at the retirement of its President, Mrs. Somerville, and its appreciation of her good generalship in the pioneer suffrage work of Mississippi, and of her continued labors that have witnessed the results of her work.
>
> That the Association rejoices in the enfranchisement of the women of the State of California. This enfranchisement places a new star on the Woman Suffrage Flag -- the only flag which symbolizes our national ideals.
>
> That we rejoice that the women of California are now equipped with the power to make them factors in controlling and directing the influences affecting the woman's sphere -- the home.
>
> That we rejoice in the tremendous growth of the suffrage sentiment all over the civilized globe, which sentiment is enfranchising the women of all other nationalities as well as those of the different States. We rejoice that China has enfranchised her women upon the same terms as men. We extend our good wishes and congratulations to the campaign States of Oregon, Kansas, Wisconsin, Ohio and Michigan and recommend that all Mississippi suffragists contribute and render all possible assistance to the work in these campaign states.
>
> That the women of Mississippi Woman Suffrage will re-double their efforts to secure better legislation for women and children in the industrial world -- to secure the extermination of the white slave horror, which is a blot on our civilization, and to this end we ask the co-operation of all women's organizations in the State of Mississippi.
>
> That we favor better child labor laws and a juvenile reformatory.
>
> That as the women of many States are serving upon board of trustees and all over the United States are establishing and maintaining charitable institutions, we believe that if Mississippi is to keep pace with the other States her women should be made eligible for trustees of all eleemosynary (sic) institutions.
>
> That as the interests of home and school are so closely connected we believe that women should be made eligible for school trustees and county superintendents of education, and we appeal to the women of Mississippi to give their active support to this movement.[12]

The ninth and the last annual convention of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association claiming documentary evidence was held April 15-17, 1913, in the senate chamber of the state Capitol, Jackson. Officers elected at this convention were: Mrs. Annie Kinkead Dent, Yazoo City, president; Mrs. S. Fannie Clark, Okolona, first vice president; Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville, Greenville, second vice president; Mrs. Alma Dorsey Birdsall, Yazoo City, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Ella O. Biggs, Jackson, recording secretary; Mrs. Edith Marshall Tucker, Jackson, treasurer; Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville, Greenville, delegate, national convention; Mrs. Monroe McClurg, member, national executive committee.

The minutes of the 1913 meeting state that many events affecting the suffragist movement occurred during the preceding year. A highlight of Mississippi activity in the national woman suffrage movement of that year was its float in Washington, D.C., at the woman suffrage parade March 3, 1913. Marching in that parade, Judge Allen

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[12] Eighth Annual Report, Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, April, 1912.

Thompson described the event at the ninth annual convention. He reported the very rowdy behavior on the part of the crowd. He added that, "His hat was off all day for the heroism and martial air of the captain of the marchers." He said that the Mississippi float carried the banner which proclaimed that "Mississippi was the first state to give married women their property rights and the first state to establish industrial freedom for its girls."

The press committee reported that the Jackson **Daily News** had become an enthusiastic supporter of equal rights for women. Editorials supporting this position appeared almost weekly. The Yazoo **Sentinel,** the Greenville **Democrat** and the Cleveland **Enterprise** were also staunch advocates. The Greenville **Democrat** weekly devoted two columns of prominent space to women's suffrage. Other papers which published suffrage material were the Ackerman **Tribune,** McComb City **Journal,** McComb City **Enterprise,** Columbus **Commercial,** Magnolia **Gazette,** Greenwood **Enterprise** and Summit **Sentinel.**

Mrs. Lily Wilkinson Thompson gave the presidential address at the ninth annual convention. She ended her address with these words:

> Each has her part to do. I am only one, but I am one; I cannot do everything, but I can do something. What I can do I ought to do, and what I ought to do, by the help of God, I will do.
>
> If every woman and every man who believe in equal rights will join hands in a determination to secure it, we will soon have this boon for our great state, the boon of an unfettered womanhood -- free to work and to dream -- to manifest high aim, to share with man life's labor and life's fame, a womanhood free to do its sacred best for home and children and humanity.[13]

In January, 1914, the Mississippi Legislature, in joint session, held a hearing devoted to woman suffrage. Miss Kate M. Gordon of New Orleans and five Mississippi women addressed the joint session. The Mississippi women were Mrs. Monroe McClurg, Mrs. Pauline V. Orr, Mrs. Lily W. Thompson, Mrs. Annie K. Dent, Mrs. Nellie N. Somerville and Miss Belle Kearney. Mr. N. A. Mott of Yazoo City introduced the amendment in the Mississippi House of Representatives. Mr. Hall Sanders of Charleston introduced the same resolution in the Mississippi Senate. The resolutions were defeated in an atmosphere of intense excitement.[14]

Mississippi women finally achieved the right to vote in 1920, six years later. The Nineteenth Amendment granting woman suffrage was passed by the Congress of the United States June 5, 1919, and ratified August 26, 1920.

MISS BELLE KEARNEY (1863-1939) was a prominent lecturer, reformer, legislator and author. She was born near Vernon in Madison County, Mississippi, the daughter of Colonel Walter Guston Kearney and Susannah Owens Kearney. She received her earliest education from governesses. Later she attended the public schools and then was a student for two years at the Young Ladies' Academy at Canton, Mississippi. She continued her studies under the direction of Mrs. Amelia Drane of Canton, a graduate of Tulane University and a specialist in mathematics. Miss Kearney also took a course in pedagogy and bookkeeping at the Iuka Normal Institute at Iuka, Mississippi. While active in the support of many good causes, she devoted herself to the accomplishment of two reforms: national constitutional prohibition and nation-wide woman suffrage.

In 1889 she was appointed State Superintendent of the Young Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Mississippi and of the Loyal Temperance Union of Mississippi by the State Convention of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union. Two years after her entrance into public life, she was appointed lecturer and organizer for the National Woman's Christian Temperance Union, a position she held for nineteen years. Miss Kearney was elected President of the Mississippi Woman's Christian Temperance Union and was invited to speak at an international convention at London. While there, she was commissioned to go around the world in the interest of world-wide temperance. For twenty-one years she labored for this cause, speaking in every state and territory of the United States. Mississippi finally declared for prohibition and was the first state in the Union to ratify the Eighteenth Amendment to the Federal Constitution.

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[13] Minutes of the Ninth Annual Convention, Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association, April 15-17, 1913.

[14] Ibid.

MISS BELLE KEARNEY (1863-1939)

Miss Kearney always believed in woman suffrage and wrote and lectured in its advocacy. She was president of the Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association and spoke at the conventions of the national organization. She addressed legislatures and at intervals for years lived at Washington doing work among the members of Congress and appearing before Congressional committees. During World War I, Miss Kearney went to Europe at her own expense to do relief work. Upon her return to the United States, she was invited to speak to the soldiers under the auspices of the War Work Council of the National YMCA. For two summers she lectured in the interest of the Allies through the Middle West. In December, 1920, Miss Kearney declared her candidacy for the United States Senate and for nearly two years traveled over Mississippi making political speeches. In December, 1922, she became a candidate for the State Senate and was elected in the first primary. She is believed to be the first woman elected a member of a state senate in the South.

In 1894, authorized by Susan B. Anthony, President of the National Equal Rights Association, she began here efforts to organize a woman's suffrage movement in Mississippi with the following words: "It is considered a brave thing to declare openly for woman's suffrage in certain conservative portions of our southern land. I am so thankful that Mississippi is not conservative. Conservatism is synonymous with backwardness ignorance and prejudice.

The women of our beloved state ask in the name of their homes and their womanhood that an effort be made in their behalf for universal civil rights. I believe so thoroughly in the chivalry, nobility, broadmindedness and greatheartedness of Mississippi's manhood and in the strength, intelligence, generosity and heroism of Mississippi's womanhood that I feel sure that this appeal will not fail to impress them with the necessity for immediate action. The approbation of God rests upon this glorious movement that has been instituted for the entrance of women into her full heritage."

She remained optimistic to the end. In an article published on July 17, 1936, "The Fight for Suffrage By Women of Mississippi", she wrote: "Some day the men of Mississippi, true to their heritage of chivalry and their keen sense of justice, will place upon the brow of the womanhood of their State the highest gift of civilization (the vote)."

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EDUCATION FOR WOMEN IN MISSISSIPPI --

PAST AND PRESENT

by
Cleopatra D. Thompson

"A modern state cannot hope to achieve its true destiny with one half of its people educated and trained and the other half neglected and left in ignorance and superstitution."

Anonymous

The story of education and educational opportunities for women in Mississippi is inspirational in its running the gamut of indomitable courage, and fervid determination. It gives insight into the unprecedented roles of women, their contributions and their leadership. They did not always find sympathetic and understanding support for the promotion of the work that they deemed so essential for the advancement of the education of women and girls.

While this study is concerned primarily with the education of women in Mississippi, it should be pointed out that the study of the education program for one sex cannot be isolated from that of the total educational efforts. The mose effective way to study the educational program for women in the state is to consider its development within the context of the total design of education for all the citizens. In such a historical setting, information is provided on some activities of co-education of men; meanwhile, information is provided on the impact of the educational offerings as related to women. This latter approach is taken by the writer.

Numerous studies have been made of the educational endeavors in Mississippi, but information with regard to the education and educational opportunities is quite limited. Long treatise would be required to deal with the many aspects of the education of women in the state. This report makes no claim for completeness of such information. The writer regards this as a seminal report for future studies of women.

Of the thousands of Mississippi women involved in educational affairs, the full story cannot yet be written. In this study mention can be made of institutions and organizations and of a few towering personages "who stood like beacons pointing them to higher things."

Education for women in Mississippi, like that of all American women in the early years of the nation, was not a popular idea during the territorial days and during the early years of statehood. At that time the belief was widespread and it still exists to some extent, until the present that the woman's place is in the home and that formal education was unlikely to aid in fulfilling this basic role; thus, a high degree of discrimination in the education of girls existed in those early years. Despite such obstacles, there was a significant cadre of women who worked for the education of their sex and women who gave "meaning to their dreams."

The history of education in Mississippi dates back to 1772 when an attempt was made before territorial days by church groups to establish schools; however, these attempts were temporarily pushed into the background by the authorities of the second Spanish period (1779-1798).[1]

In the pioneering days school support was inadequate and erratic since the prevailing belief was that education was a matter for the church or a private matter; hence, parents who could afford to do so employed private teachers for their children or sent them to Eastern schools and abroad.[2] After Mississippi became a territory, a number of academies were established. Mississippi College, established as Hampstead Academy in 1826 under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church, was granted permission to offer degrees in 1830. According to records and engraved medals at the College, it was the **first** college in the United States to grant a bachelor's degree to a female, and was awarded in 1832.[3] "Shortly thereafter, the college was divided into a female and a male department, each having its own faculty... In 1850 the Clinton Presbytery of the Mississippi Synod severed its

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[1] **Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State.** Federal Writers of the Works Progress Administration. New York: Viking Press, 1937. pp. 118-119.

[2] Ibid.

[3] Ibid. Also interview with Mrs. Nannie Pitts McLemore

relationship with the college. The board then gave the school to the town of Clinton, which subsequently conveyed the property to the Baptist State Convention,[4] its present supporters.

Oakland College, another well-known pioneer school, was founded by the Presbyterians in the state in 1830 for white male students. The school closed during the Civil War. After the conflict, it was sold for the education of Negro men (1871), and the name was changed to Alcorn University. It became a Land Grant supported school in 1878 and the name was changed to Alcorn Agricultural and Mechanical College. The name was changed to Alcorn State University in 1974 when the school was elevated to University status. The school became a co-educational institutional in 1902. Other academies that were established for women included the Elizabeth Female Academy at Washington, named for Mrs. Elizabeth Roach who gave the buildings and grounds to the Methodist Church of Mississippi in 1818; the school was granted a charter and opened that same year.[5] Another school established for women was the Sharon Female Academy (1837) in the village of Sharon in Madison County. The college came under the support of the Methodist Church and the name was changed to Madison College. The school closed during the Civil War, reopened in 1866, but ceased it's existence in 1874.[6]

Mississippi State University for Women founded by Mrs. Annie Peyton as a private school, was incorporated by an act of the Legislature, approved March 12, 1884. It began in 1885 and became the first public institution i the United States to be established for the higher education of women. The stated primary objectives were "to give a thorough general education, to give the best normal training and to train the pupils in the various industrials arts."[7] The school was incorporated as The Industrial Institute and College; Later, the name was changed to Mississippi State College for Women, and in 1974 it was changed to Mississippi University for Women. Its first graduates in 1889 were Mary B. Bynum, Fannie A. Camp, Katherine M. Crusoe, Eula Deaton, Mary H. Mayo, Mannie Pasley, Emma Thigpen, Cora Walker, Matilda Wiener, and Mazyck. Degrees are now (1978) being offered at both the unergraduate and graduate levels.

Prior to the War Between the States, Mississippi did not have a successful public school program and there were no schools for Black people...[8] Free schools in the state were maintained primarily by sixteenth section lands granted to the state by Congress during the early part of the century. These schools were open only to white children.[9]

During slavery there was a strong desire to keep the slaves ignorant. Legal restrictions stated that under no conditions should slaves be taught to read and write; nevertheless, many slaves did learn to read and write before the Emancipation Proclamation was issued, freeing all slaves, on January 1, 1963. "There was no provision that a master could not teach an individual slave to read and write."[10] "House Servants ... were often taught to read."[11] Those who did learn to read and write taught other slaves. An account is given of the work on one slave woman, Milla Granson:

> On a plantation in Mississippi, Milla Granson, a slave conducted a midnight school for several years. She had been taught to read and write by the children of the former master in Kentucky..., and in her little school hundreds of slaves benefitted from her learning. She was sold and brought to a plantation in Mississippi. Because of failing health and a cruel master, she was promoted from the field to the kitchen. She established a school from her kitchen where she taught twelve slaves at a time from midnight to two o'clock in the morning by the light of pine splinters. When the students had reached the extent of Milla's ability, she graduated them and sent them on.
>
> However, the news of Milla's school leaked out, and the effort seemed not too pleasant. She had to suspend classes. The subject finally reached the Legislature which passed a law making it legal

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[4] Aubrey Keith Lucas, "Education in Mississippi from Statehood to the Civil War," reported in **A history of Mississippi**, edited by Richard Aubrey McLemore. Hattiesburg: University and College Press of Mississippi. p. 361., Vol. I.

[5] Ibid., pp. 361-362.

[6] Ibid., pp. 362-363.

[7] Richard Aubrey McLemore, "Higher Education in the Twentieth Century." Reported in **A History of Mississippi**, op. cit., p. 417. Vol. II.

[8] **Mississippi: A Guide to the Magnolia State**, op. cit., pp. 18—18-119.

[9] W. Milan Davis. **Pushing Forward**. Okolona, Mississippi: Okolona Messenger Press, 1938. p. 6.

[10] Lucas, op. cit., pp. 373-374.

[11] Ibid.

for a slave to teach a slave. Milla Granson not only reopened night school but started a sabbath school as well.[12]

Before the close of the Civil War, the work of teaching Negroes began with the occupation of the state by the federal armies, and the first Schools for Negroes were established in Vicksburg before the close of the way by such organizations as the American Missionary Association, the Society of Friends, and the Freedman Aid Society.[13] With the organization of the Freedman's Bureau, a more systematic and comprehensive plan for the education of the Negro was undertaken.[14]

After the Civil War, there was a re-awakening in education by both public and private groups. Opportunities for free public education were extremely limited due to some extent to the financial conditions of the state at that time. During the early reconstruction period there was no provision for the separation of the races. This came about with the establishment of the doctrine of "separate but equal;" however, the growth and support of schools for Negroes did not keep pace with those for the whites.[15] Schools for Negroes were supported primarily by philanthropic groups, by tuitions and by Negroes themselves.[16]

After the Civil War, co-educational schools for both Black and White people were established. Among the schools that were founded for white women were All Saints College (Episcopal), Vicksburg; Belhaven College (Presbyterian), Jackson; Blue Mountain College (Baptist), Blue Mountain; Mississippi Woman's College (Baptist) Hattiesburg. Schools that were established for black families included Mary Holmes Seminary, now named Mary Holmes Junior College (Presbyterian), West Point; Mt. Herman Seminary (private), Clinton, and Saints Junior College, Lexington.[17]

The complete list of women who served as founders and as co-founders of educational institutions would be an impossible task -- impossible because of time and space limitations and because of information.

Sarah A. Dickey, was founder of Mt. Herman Female Seminary. The story of her life and work is told by Helen Griffith in a book entitled: **Dauntless in Mississippi: The Life of Sarah A. Dickey, 1838-1904.**[18] -- An account of the life of a Northern white woman who founded a school for Negro women against insurmountable obstacles.

Mrs. Arenia C. Mallory was founder of Saints Junior College in Lexington, and served as its President from its inception in 1926 until her retirement in 1976. She was a world traveler and internationally known as an organizer scholar, leader, and an articulate, knowledgeable speaker. She was the first Negro to be elected to the Board of Education in Holmes County.

Mrs. Effie T. Battles, poet, educator and writer, succeeded her husband as President of Okolona College. Wallace A. Battle was founder in 1904. Later, the school was supported by the Protestant Episcopal Church and the American Church Institute for Negroes. It closed in 1964.

Mrs. Bertha LaBranch Johnson, co-founder of Prentiss Institute, with her husband, J. E. Johnson, followed him as president. Mrs. Johnson was also a distinguished clubwoman. She served as president of the state and Southeastern Federation of Colored Women's Clubs. She led the drive to establish Oakley Training School as a youth recycling institution for delinquents.

Four women made a distinct contribution to the organization of Christ Missionary and Industrial College. They wer sisters: Alice Brown, Sarah L. Thames, Rosa Jones Vance, and Rosa C. Lee.[19]

From 1900 to the present, education in Mississippi has been characterized by numerous movement of significant humanitarian import. Women have been deeply involved in these movements. Equality of educational opportunities was a grave concern. Mrs. Gladys Noel Bates had the indomitable courage to fight for equal salaries

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[12] **Mississippi's Black Women**, Edited and compiled by Geneva B. White and Eva H. Bishop: A Bicentennial Project of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, 1976. p. 38.

[13] Davis, op. cit., pp. 10-11.

[14] Ibid.

[15] Cleopatra D. Thompson. **The History of the Mississippi Teachers Association.** Washington, D.C.: National Education Association Press, 1973. p. 12.

[16] Ibid.

[17] Ibid.; R. A. McLemore, op. cit., pp. 415-445.

[18] Helen Griffith, **Dauntless in Mississippi: The Life of Sarah A. Dickey, 1838-1904.** Northampton, Mass.: Metcalf Press, 1964.

[19] White and Bishop, op. cit., pp. 38-39.

guaranteed her under the laws of the United States of America. She filed a suite for equalization of salaries for all teachers with the same of similar qualifications. This suit generated the legal atmosphere that eventually enabled black teachers in Mississippi to earn salaries based on training, experience and service rendered. After filing the equalization suit, both she and her husband, John M. Bates, were not issued contracts the following year by the Jackson Public Schools.[20] Presently (1978), Mrs. Bates and her husband are employed in administrative positions in the Denver, Colorado Public School System.

Another major concern was the desegregation of Mississippi's schools and of desegregation in general. Tensions often ran high when such a problem was discussed. One example was that of a meeting called by Governor Hugh White who invited 100 Black leaders to a conference to discuss the question of "voluntary acceptance of segregation." The Governor opened the session by introducing the question of voluntary acceptance of segregation. Several speakers expressed various points of view, and it was evident that there was not unanimity among the group. As an invited guest, Mrs. Ruby Stutts Lyells said that she felt her candid opinion was desired. Her eloquent, cogent and forthright statment met with disfavor of those who had convened the meeting, but it succinctly stated the position of the majority of Mississippi black Leaders who attended this historical gathering. In summary, she stated the emotional, economic, social, and demoralizing effect that segregation had had upon the black people.

Mrs. Lyells, a librarian by profession, held positions as librarian in schools and colleges in Mississippi and Iowa, and in the city of Jackson. Also, she is well-known as a courageous civic, political, social and educational leader and clubwoman. She is a member of the court-appointed Biracial Committee for a Unitary School System in Jackson serving a two-year term as chairwoman. In addition, she is past president of Jacksonians for Public Education.

Significant legislation at various times, on both the state and the national levels have aided in making needed reforms in education in general, and has increased awareness necessary for further reforms in education and in other rights for women. For example, the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court decision, outlawing segregation was a turning point for new directions of education in Mississippi. Other reforms came about with the enactment of the 1964 Civil Rights Act; Title IV makes provisions for the desegregation of public education, and Title VI provides for non-discrimination in federally assisted programs. Title IX of the Education Admendments Act bans sex discrimination in institutions that receive federal funds, has had far-reading implications for the education, as well as the employment of women. Shantz reported in her study on "Women's Role," that the greatest proportion of women (employed in institutions of higher learning) find college teaching jobs at the lower levels of faculty ranks at all levels of higher education..."[21]

Mississippi women have been and are now involved in all phases of educational endeavors. They are employed in positions as teacher aides, teachers, counselors, coordinators, supervisors, administrators, researchers, computer analyst and other staff supportive services. They have served on numerous boards, commissions, and as officers of and presenters of scholarly work at educational organizations and learned societies. Still, there educational leadership roles into which women in Mississippi have not been able to enter in large numbers, such as superintendents of schools, secondary school principal, business managers, academic deans and college/university presidents.

More women, however, in Mississippi and in the nation are taking advantage of higher educational opportunities. According to a recent report in the **Chronicle of Higher Education,** women account for 93 per cent of the 1977-78 year's enrollment at American Colleges and Universities.[22] Also, "49 per cent of all American Collee students are women. The total enrollment for the 1977 Fall in higher education in Mississippi was 98,397 students. Of this number 48,192 were men and 50,205 (50.1%) were women.[23]

Despite obstacles the Mississippi Woman's creativity has flourished, and some well-known female writers, poets, and artists have emerged. Most of them are also educators. Eudora Welty is one of Mississippi's most prolific writers. She has been the recipient of some of the nation's highest literary honors. Honorary degrees have

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[20] Thompson, op. cit., pp. 79, 107, and 136.; also, White and Bishop, op. cit., p. 33.

[21] Betty B. Schantz. "Report on Women's Role," **AACTE BULLETIN** 30:1; Feb. 1975.

[22] Jack Magarrell, "Women Account for 93 Pct. of Enrollment Gain." **The Chronicle of Higher Education** XV: 1 and 11; January 9, 1978.

[23] "Opening Fall Enrollments in 1975, 1976, and 1977," **Chronicle,** Ibid., p. 10.

been given her by six well-known colleges and universities. She has taught and lectured at institutions of higher learning in the United States and in England.[24]

Margaret Walker Alexander is another internationally recognized author and poet. Among her awards are the Yale University Award for Younger Poets, and a Houghton Mifflin Literary Fellowship Award. In addition to her earned doctoral degree, she has received three honorary degrees from distinguished universities.[25] Prominent artists - educators included Theora Hamblett, and Marie Hull.

One of the best known writers of books for children is Charlemae Hill Rollins, teacher-librarian. She taught children's literature courses at Roosevelt University, Chicago, Illinois, and at Fisk University, Nashville, Tennessee, meanwhile, she has served as consultant and lecturer at educational institutions throughout the nation. Mrs. Rollins was in charge of the children's department in the George C. Hull Branch Library from 1932 to 1963 until her retirement at that time. She was born in Yazoo City, June 20, 1897.[26]

Mrs. Nannie Pitts McLemore is well-known for her work as a historian, educator and civic leader. She has co-authored several books with her late husband, Dr. Richard Aubrey McLemore, who was also former President of Mississippi College.

Mrs. Jessie B. Mosley, educator, civic worker, clubwoman and religious leader is also a well-known historian and preserver of archival materials on Mississippi history and life of Black people. She has published a number of articles, and is the author of **The Negro in Mississippi History.**[27] Mrs. Mosley was State Coordinator for the Mississippi International Women's Year (IWY) State Conference. Recent authors who have made important contributions to historical knowledge are Mrs. Melerson Guy Dunham who wrote the Centennial History of Alcorn State university in 1971;[28] Dr. Alfredteen Harrison is the author of the **Centennial History of the Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge,**[29] and the writer, Cleopatra D. Thomspon, is the author of the **History of the Mississippi Teachers Association.**[30]

Mrs. Geneva Brown Blalock White and Mrs. Eva H. Bishop are co-authors of **Mississippi's Black Women,** a Bicentennial Project of the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, supported by the Mississippi Bicentennial Commission. [31]

Leontyne Price, a gifted operatic soprano, "has been awarded unprecedented accolades crowning her "Prima Donna Absoluta." She is internationally regarded as one of the greatest artist in our time - and stands at the pinnacle of the musical world."[32] -- A great contributor to education.

Countless women have made important contributions to the field of education. Widely known for their pioneering efforts in education are Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Florence O. Alexander, Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister, and Mary Geraldine Whiteside.

Mrs. Barnett began her career as a teacher in the public schools of Mississippi, Arkansas, and Tennessee; however, most of her life was spent as a journalist and crusader for civil and human rights. Her biography has appeared in several publications.[33]

Miss Mary Geraldine Whiteside, educator and humanitarian, was noted for her contributions and leadership in higher education, and for her work in teacher education. She helped to write the first **Teacher Certification Bulletin for the State Department of Education** of Mississippi.

Dr. Jane Ellen McAllister is internationally acclaimed as an authority in teacher education, and also as a noted lecturer, author, prolific writer, and contributor to scholarly journals and yearbooks. She holds the distinction of

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[24] Sarah Rowe, "literature 1890 to 1970," Reported in R. A. McLemore, op. cit., pp. 459-462, Vol. II.

[25] Ibid., pp. 469-470.

[26] George Alexander Sewell. **Mississippi Black History Makers.** Jackson, Mississippi: University Press of Mississippi, 1977, pp. 250-251.

[27] Mrs. C. C. Mosley, **The Negro in Mississippi history,** Jackson, Mississippi: Purser Brothers, 1969.

[28] Melerson Guy Dunham. **Centennial History of Alcorn College.** Hattiesburg, Mississippi: University and College Press of Mississippi, 1971.

[29] Alferdteen Harrison. **A History of the Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge: Our Heritage Is Our Challenge.** Copyright 1977 by Most Worshipful Stringer Grand Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons, Prince Hall Affiliate of the State of Mississippi.

[30] Thompson, op. cit.

[31] White and Bishop, op. cit.

[32] Ibid.; also Sewell, op. cit., 207-219.

[33] Ibid., pp. 76-86; also, Sadie Iola Daniel. **Women Builders.** Washington D.C.: **The Associated Publishers,** 1970, pp. 263-288.

being the first Negro woman in the United States to earn a doctorate in education (at Columbia University, New York, 1929). She has been honored on numerous occasions for her educational leadership and humanitarian endeavors.[34]

The most influential pioneer woman who dedicated her time and talents in the improvement of educational opportunities for black people is Miss Florence Octavia Alexander. She was the first female of her race to serve in the Mississippi State Department of Education. From 1932 to 1958 she served as itinerant teacher trainer, devoting most of her time working with Jeanes supervisors. Another first for her was her election to the presidency to the Mississippi Teachers Association in 1934. Also, she served as president of the Woman's Baptist State Convention of Mississippi, and president of the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.[35] Dr. Joseph H. Jackson, President of the National Baptist Convention, USA, had this to say about Miss Alexander:

> Florence Alexander leaped the barriers of poverty, defied the impediment of economic scarcity and became one of the best educated, most influential leaders in the State of Mississippi and the nation.....Now living in retirment (1978)..., she carried on a most effective campaign for first class citizenship for all people by her first class and positive behavior patterns and constructive attitudes. Goodwill, self-respect, always; hatred, bitterness, never.[36]

Other ways in which Mississippi women have been involved in decision-making roles have been membership on boards of Education. Mrs. Lora L. Chappell and Mrs. Sondra Powell are members of the Board of Education of the Jackson Separate School District. Mrs. Powell is the first black female to serve in this capacity. Dr. Arenia C. Mallory of Lexington, became the firsty Negro to be elected to the Board of Education in Holmes County. During the 1940's Mrs. Ned Lee and Mrs. Swep S. Taylor were members of the Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning.[37] Two women are members of the Board at the present. They are Dr. Miriam Simmons and Mrs. Betty Anthony Williams. Mrs. Williams became the first black female appointed to the Board.

Miss Amanda Elzy is one of the few women who hold an administrative position at the local level in public education. She has served as Assistant Superintendent of the Leflore County Schools since 1938. In 1959, the School Board named the Amanda Elzy High School in Greenwood in her honor. Rust College, her Alma Mater, awarded her the Doctor of Humanities degree in 1973. She is an active participant in numerous educational and civic affairs.

For many years a name that was synonymous with the Mississippi State Department of Education was that of Miss Ruby Thompson, researcher and statistician. Her dedication and efficiency won the respect of all those with whom she worked and of those who recognized her leadership and contributions. Since retirement, Miss Thompson spends her time as a leader in promoting the work of professional organizations, traveling abroad, and serving as a volunteer in tutoring illiterate adults.

Miss Mildred Williams is another well-known personality in the State Department of Education. She is Director of Early Childhood Education, and Coordinator of the Follow-Through-Program. Recently, she finished a four-year term as the first black woman to serve on the Board of Trustees of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Retired women who have rendered yeoman services in the State Department of Education are Miss Ruth Wallace, Mrs. Xlema Price, and Mrs. Dorothy Gordon Gray in the Department of Home Economics Education.

Prior to the 1960's there was a scarcity of women holding administrative positions or serving in supervisory roles in the State Department of Education. Today (1978), there are thirty-seven women holding such professional positions. Their names are as follows:

DIVISION OF INSTRUCTION

1. Mary Ann Baird, State Supervisor of Reading
2. Nancy Brown, Social Studies Consultant
3. Carol Burns, Consultant, Migrant Education
4. Yvonne Dyson, Library Consultant
5. Louise Ginn, Assistant Supervisor, Field Services and Mathematics Consultant, Title I
6. Annie Bess Hinton, Library Consultant
7. Susan Hund, Supervisor, Migrant Education
8. Ruth Moody, State Technical Assistant, Right To Read

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[34] Thompson, op. cit., p. 143; also White and Bishop, op. cit., p. 40; and Sewell, op. cit., p. 155-165.

[35] Thompson, op. cit., pp. 124-125.

[36] Joseph H. Jackson, "The Most Important Extraordinary Black Woman I Have Ever Known." **Ebony**, XXXII no. 10, (August 1977), p. 139.

[37] Joseph E. Gibson, **Mississippi Study of Higher Education**. Jackson, Mississippi: Board of Trustees, Institutions of Higher Learning, 1945, p. 4.

9. Clarice Mooney, Assistant Supervisor, Teacher Certification
10. Dot Moore, Coordinator, Right To Read
11. Dollie S. Mosley, Mathematics Consultant
12. Sandra Nicola, Art Education Consultant
13. Carolyn Nelson, Analyst, Teacher Certification
14. Barbara Rogers, Analyst, Teacher Certification
15. Elva Smith, Supervisor, School Health Services
16. Betty Swords, Business Education Consultant
17. Kathleen Touchstone, Reading Consultant, Title I

SPECIAL EDUCATION

18. Angelia Baker, Assistant Coordinator of MLR System
19. Carolyn Black, Consultant, MLRS
20. Janice Epsy, Consultant, Educable Children's Program
21. Myrtle Glatzer, Consultant, Learning Disabilities
22. Brenda Hobbs, Consultant, Language, Speech and Hearing Services
23. Linda Hostetter, Consultant, Gifted and Talented Children
24. Carolyn McGuire, Assistant Supervisor, of Special Education
25. Judith Nobel, Consultant, Part D
26. Patsy Weiker, Consultant, Mental Retardation

ADULT EDUCATION

27. Peggie B. Orey, Consultant, Adult/Continuing Education

VOCATIONAL EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

28. Laura Blair, Supervisor, Health Occupations
29. Ida Ballard, Supervisor, Home Economics Education
30. Betty Barnhill, Assistant Supervisor of Home Economics
31. Kathryn Leonard, Assistant Supervisor of Home Economics Education
32. Bertha Williams, Assistant Supervisor of Home Economics Education

TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION

33. Sue Bailey, Assistant Supervisor of Special Programs
34. Hollistyne Mothersheed, Assistant Supervisor of Special Programs
35. Judy McLarty, Program Officer, Sex Equality
36. Fern Bess, Assistant Supervisor, Manpower
37. Betty Wong, Research and Curriculum Specialist

An increasing number of women in Mississippi have been appointed to administrative positions in higher education. Attorney Libby Payne, an honor graduate of the University of Mississippi, is Dean of the Law School at Mississippi College. She is one of a very few females in the nation to hold such an important position in a law school.

Dr. Naomi Johnson Towsend is former dean of instruction at Tougaloo College. She is among the select group of Mississippians who hold membership in **Phi Beta Kappa** National Honorary Society. n 1963, she was awarded Fulbright Scholarship for travel-study in India. As head of the English Department, she designed and carried out numerous relevant projects for the improvement of communicative skills and education in general.

Dr. Sarah Rouse has achieved success as an administrator and teacher. She is the wife of a former president of Mississippi Woman's College, now William Carey College. Her administrative positions include: dean of women, and chairman of the Division of Humanities at Mississippi College. She is a contributor to scholarly publications, and is past president of the Mississippi American Association of University Women.

The life of the writer, Cleopatra D. Thompson, has been interspersed with numerous pioneering efforts. She has served as a professor, supervisor, and administrator in colleges and universities in Mississippi, New York, and Liberia, West Africa. "She has been a major contributor to the growth of Jackson State University for over thirty years and is the University's (first Dean of the School of Education and) first Distinguished Professor ... Her memberships are numerous in local, state, national and international civic, and professional organizations."[41] Her biography appears in six yearbooks, and she has gained a keen insight into world educational problems through her participation in seven international educational conferences and through the travel study tours in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America and South America.[38]

Dr. Beatrice Mosley succeeded Dr. Cleopatra D. Thompson as Dean of the School of Education at Jackson State University on July 1, 1977. She is also Professor of Special Education. Prior to her present appointment, she served as Professor of Special Education and Head of the Department. She is well-known for her leadership in educational affairs on the local, state, and national levels.

Dr. Mildred Allen is Dean of Student Affairs for Counseling Services at Jackson State University. She formerly served as associate dean of Student Affairs and Assistant Professor of Education.

Dr. Ella Mae Souder in Dean of the Graduate School at Mississippi University for Women. She is rendering distinguished service in this position of leadership.

Another peson who has served with distinction as Dean of Instruction at Mississippi University for Women was Dr. Nellie Kern. She set a remarkable track record as an administrator and educator.

Dr. Willa Player, a native of Jackson, has spent most of her life outside of the state. She is eminently known

[38] **SCOPE**. Jackson State University, Jackson, Mississippi: 27:2 January 11, 1978, p. 2; also, White and Bishop, op. cit., p. 41.

for her work in higher education, as a teacher of Latin and French, President of Bennett College, Greensboro, North Carolina, and Director of the Division of College Support, Bureau of Higher Education, U. S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare (HEW). In addition to her earned doctorate degree in education from Columbia University, she has been awarded seven honorary doctoral degrees by well-known colleges and universities. Her numerous awards include two citations from HEW: Superior Service Award from HEW in 1970, and the Distinguished Service Award from HEW in 1972.

Educational Cooperative Extension Services (ECES)

The Cooperative Extension Service, designed to meet the needs of both youth and adults, has been in the vanguard in educational activities at the local, county, state and national levels. Former and present female leaders include Dr. Marilyn Purdie, Dr. Caroline Anderson, Miss Mary Jo Hall, and Mesdames Florence D. Allen, Raygene P. Dunlap, Hallie Lucas Gray, Eva L. Gordon, Sadie C. Hill, Dot Marie Evans, Alberta Dishman, Virlie Moody Lindsay, Daisy Lewis Montgomery, Lillian O. Palmer, and Esther Washington Reed.

Professional Educational Associations

The Mississippi Association of Educators (MAE) was created on September 1, 1976 when the Mississippi Education Association and the Mississippi Teachers Association merged. It is significant to note that Mrs. Wylma King, formerly of MTA, was the first president of the newly formed association, and Mrs. Bea Bradley, formerly of MEA, succeeded her as the second president. The Association directs its activities to educators at all levels. It has a roster of auxiliary units and affiliated groups representing local, county and district organizations.

The two former educational associations made an indelible impact on education in Mississippi. They promoted progressive legislation for improving and upgrading education at all levels; meanwhile, they served as "clearing houses" of educational information, and as forums for the analysis of educational problems and concerns. Women served in every leadershop role during the existence of the organizations. There were three women who became presidents of MTA, and there were twenty-six women who became presidents of MEA. They were as follows:

Mississippi Teachers Association (MTA)

Florence Octavia Alexander, 1934-36
Lillian Rogers Johnson, 1938-1940
Fannie L. Nichols, 1942-1944

Mississippi Educational Association (MEA)

Anne Fant, 1925
Kate B. Brown, 1927
Nannie Gillis, 1929
Clara E. Stokes, 1931
Ermin Pitts, 1933
Edna Simmons, 1935
Alma Hickman, 1937
Mary Hutchinson, 1939
Janie Robinson, 1941
Nell Lawler, 1943
Grace F. Nelson, 1945
Lula Mae Jones, 1947
Laurie Mae Carter, 1949
Nannie Chesteen, 1951
Maude W. Hunter, 1953
Mary Odin Haas, 1955
Margaret Hutchinson, 1957
Lina Sartar, 1959
Nell H. Thomas, 1961
Mary Lou Godbold, 1963
Mary Mobberly, 1965
Emma Ruth Corban, 1967
Elise Curtis, 1969
Etoile Hopkins, 1971
Mary Ann Hardy, 1973
Mildred McReynolds, 1975

The Parent Teachers Association (PTA)

No organization in Mississippi has played a more vital role in promoting educational activities than that of the Parent Teachers Associations. Prior to 1968 there were two separate organizations -- The Mississippi Congress of Colored Parents and Teachers, and The Mississippi Congress of Parents and Teachers. In 1970 the two organizations united to form **one** association in order to work more constructively in helping to cope with educational problems. Unselfish, untiring and distinguished service and leadership have been rendered by the following women. Mesdames Beatrice Coleman, C. D. Dumas, Emma Elzy, Theresa G. Almore, Cora Lee Marshall, Ruby Bryant Brakefield, Z.E. Moman, Dr. Cleopatra D. Thompson, Reverend Thelma Watson, and Miss Josie Turner (MCCPT). Mesdames Opan Worthy, Carolyn H. Hendricks, Juanita F. Crespino, Willia Mae Mitchell, Barbara Stauss, Albena Hill, and Lora L. Chappell (MCPT).

Educational Contributions of Religious, Fraternal and Social Groups

Some of the work of religious groups has been presented elsewhere in this study. Organizations for women in the various churches have pooled their resources and have tirelessly searched for new sources to aid in the education of young people. They have given of their time and talents as teachers in missionary and church schools, and through their efforts they opened new opportunities for thousands of Mississippi youth.

Social Clubs, and fraternal groups (Elks, Masons, and Sororities) and business and professional organizations

sponsored by women in Mississippi have sponsored scholarships, totalling millions of dollars and for talent search. Mississippi owes a special debt of gratitude to sororities sponsored by black women in the state. Brief accounts of their activities are reported in White and Bishops' **Mississippi's Black women,** [41] of the following sororities: **Alpha Kappa Alpha; Delta Sigma Theta,** Incorporated; **Iota Phi Lambda,** Incorporated; **Sigma Gamma Rho;** and **Zeta Phi Beta.** Finer womanhood, health services for rural areas, library services, housing, civil rights and scholarships have been given priority among their goals and objectives. Lillian Benbow, Vicksburg, was distinguished President of **Delta Sigma Theta.**

The Mothers

Finally, there are the mothers in Mississippi whose names may never make the headlines, yet they have been heroines because of their sacrifices to educate and to provide educational opportunities for their children. The mother has been her children's first teacher, imparting to them whatever she knew; she has been expected to help with homework, even though in some instances her education has been below the literary level. If the mother is unable to help here children in their studies, it has an impact on what happens to them in the classroom. In addition, the mother often has the sole responsibility for the welfare of her family. Her husband is either dead, has abandoned his family, or he is searching for a job that he may never find. Despite the obstacles, her vision, courage and dedication have been her armor.

Mississippi women are "AWAKE AND AWARE." They, like other American women, are "ON THE MOVE" around the world, giving of their time and talent untiringly and unselfishly for educational endeavors. "America's twentieth century revolution in women's expectations is still in its youth. The shape of a society which offers equal opportunity to men and women has not yet emerged; nevertheless, it is clear that the current changes are profound and irreversible."

[39] Sewell, op. cit. pp. 248-250.

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MISSISSIPPI WOMEN'S ORGANIZATIONS

by

Ruby Thompson, Jean D. Muirhead, Barbara Johnson, Eva Bishop, Fran Leber, Barbara Barnes, Cora Norman, Jessie Mosley

American Association of University Women

An idean of Marion Talbot in 1882 developed into an organization which would become the American Association of University Women. The idea that, through association, women college graduates can make substantial intellectual and cultural contributions to our society is as valid today as it was in 1882. The modest number of sixty-five AAUW has approximately 190,000 members -- in every state, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and Guam. The original Boston base has grown to include over 1,800 local AAUW branches, fifty state divisions, and more than 900 colleges and universities.

Since 1882 the Association has sought to expand opportunities for women so that they might choose careers and lifestyles beyond several stereotypes. Through the decades AAUW members worked for women's suffrage, creation of the U.S. Women's Bureau, inclusion of women under the Fair Labor Standards Act, equal pay for equal work, entry of women into diplomatic service, and election and appointment of women to publice office. It played a central role in the founding of the Federation of Organizations for Professional Women. Many AAUW state divisions spearheaded campaigns to end discrimination in inheritance laws, jury service, property rights, and to change the abortion laws.

AAUW actively supported the 1972 Congressional passage of the Equal Rights Amendment and places ratification of ERA as its top priority. Recently the Association provided leadership in a coalition of national women's groups which lobbied successfully for adoption of the guidelines for Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 that prohibit sex discrimination in education.

Annual Women's Days

"What Do Women Want Anyway?" was the theme of the first Mississippi Women's Day scheduled for August 25, 1973, commemorating the 53rd anniversary of the passage of the nineteenth Amendment giving women the right to vote. The event was held at the Holiday Inn Medical Center, Jackson, Mississippi, and was sponsored by National Organization for Women, American Association of University Women, League of Women Votes, Young Women's Christian Association and Jackson Business and Professional Women's Club. Judge Betty B. Tucker was presented the Susan B. Anthony Award.

"Woman's Place is in the World" was the theme of the second annual Mississippi Women's Day held on August 24, 1974, at Millsaps College, Jackson, Mississippi. Its sponsors were the Jackson and Meridian Chapters of National Organization for Women; Mississippi Division, American Association of University Women, Mississippi Federation, Business & Professional Women's Clubs, Inc.; Mississippi Federation, National Organization for Women; Mississippi League of Women Voters; Jackson Branch, American Association of University Women; the Capitol, Jackson and Riverside Business and Professional Women's Clubs and the Jackson Young Women's Christian Association. Euple Dozier, Fulton Attorney, was presented with the Susan B. Anthony Award for out-standing work towards the advancement of Mississippi women.

The third annual Mississippi Women's Day with "Women Reaching for Potential" as its theme, was held August 2, 1975, at Belhaven College, Jackson, Mississippi, sponsored by League of Women Voters of Mississippi; Mississippi Division, American Association of University Women; Mississippi Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs; Mississippi National Organization for Women; Mississippi Young Women's Christian Association and the National Council of Negro Women of Mississippi. Frances (Mrs. Henry) Mills served as coordinator of the day's activities. Mrs. mills' proposal to the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities resulted in covering part of the cost of the program.

The name of the Annual Award was changed to Nellie Nugent Somerville and presented to her daughter, Judge Lucy Somerville Howorth.

Mississippi Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs

The Mississippi Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs was organized in 1924, has approximately 2200 members in forty-six Clubs distributed throughout seven districts. It is a member of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs, Inc. which was founded in 1919 as an outgrowth of the previous year's meeting of the War Work Council of the YWCA. The organizational meeting was composed of 212 delegates, including two representatives, Laura Rankin and Nona Horner of Mississippi. Desiring to adopt a broader peacetime program, the Federation was incorporated in 1921. Its objectives are:

1. To elevate standards for women in business and in the professions;
2. To promote the interests of business and professional woman;
3. To bring about a spirit of cooperation among business and professional women of the United States; and
4. To extend opportunities to business and professional women through education along lines of industrial, scientific and vocational activites.

Its major achievements have been:

1. Founding of the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, composed of fifty countries;
2. Establishment of the Business and Professional Women's Foundation to administer the research and education programs of BPW;
3. Organization of the Congress of Career Women Leaders;
4. Establishment of Young Career Woman Program;
5. Sponsorship of the First Congress of Business and Professional Women of the Americas in San Juan, Puerto Rica; second in San Salvador, El Salvador;
6. Establishment of the Career Advancement Scholarship Program.
7. Legislative Support to Further Concerns of Women, such as:
   a. Elimination of sex discrimination in employment;
   b. Economic Security - effort to prohibit legislation or directives which denied jobs to married women;
   c. Equal pay for equal work;
   d. Equal employment opportunity;
   e. Elimination of sex discrimination in education;
   f. Federal jury selection and service;
   g. Equal Rights Amendment.

The Mississippi State Federation Of Colored Women's Clubs, 1903-1978

The Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs was organized in Jackson, Mississippi, in 1903. The organization is a member of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and has a membership of about 1,000 women and girs on state level.

The general objective of the State Federation is to bind together women, young adults and girls for social, moral, religious, industrial and educational betterment. The fundamental objective is to raise to the highest plane, the home, moral and civic life.

The Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs has a record of services to humanity. Its specific objectives include the following:

1. Establishing homes for working girls and the aged.
2. Providing libraries and reading rooms in rural and other areas.
3. Providing scholarships and grants for needy and deserving students.
4. Making possible institutional care for the physically handicapped and mentally retarded.
5. Funding and aiding in the support of homes for neglected and delinquent youth.
6. Purchasing and maintaining club houses for adults, camps and recreational centers for youth.
7. Sponsoring Day Care Centers for the care of working mothers and for others who need the service.

Recognizing the need of resources to realize its objectives, the leaders of the organization bought 167 acres of land known as Mt. Herman Seminary in 1927 at Clinton, Mississippi. This adventure made it possible for the organization to provide many opportunities for young and old to develop, mentally, socially, physically and educationally.

The following activities have been in operation since the purchase of the Mt. Herman property:

1. Proviced camp sites for 4-H Clubs, church groups, extension groups and Boy and Girl Scouts;
2. Provided space for ROTC activities;
3. Used Mt. Herman Seminary for Delinquent and Recreation Centers;
4. Provided for Sumner Hill County School and gave land for access road and football field;
5. Built lake on project for recreation;
6. Built club house and huts for camping;
7. Worked with Jackson State University, Fisk University, and Dilliard University on Recreational projects.

One of the significant achievements of the Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs is the diligent work with the legislature in 1940 to get a bill passed to establish Oakley Training School for delinquent black youth in Mississippi. At that time black youths were placed in prison with hardened criminals.

All the above was accomplished under the leadership of the following pioneer women who held the office of president:U. J. Wade Foster, the first president, Jackson, Mississippi; T. J. Wilson, Meridian, Mississippi; Mattie F. Rowan, Alcorn State University; T. O. Banks, Mound Bayou; Grace Jones, Piney Woods Institute; Emma Burrus Miller, Yazoo City; Lucy Jefferson, Vicksburg; J. E. Johnson, Prentiss Institute; Ruth O. Hubert, Jackson; Ruby E. Stutts Lyell, Alcorn State University; G. W. Williams, Jackson; F. O. Alexander, Jackson; T. J. Barnes,

Laurel; Edna Redmond Lovelace, Jackson; Lillian Rogers Johnson, Clarksdale; Willie L. Taylor, Grenada; A. N. Burger, Hattiesburg; Doris Tharpe Hall, Jackson.

Eva H. Bishop has been president since 1974. Under her leadership the following programs have been sponsored:

1. A bicentennial project -- writing and publishing a Pictoral History of Black Women in Mississippi, edited by Eva H. Bishop and Geneva White and funded by Mississippi and National Bicentennial Commission.
2. Humanities program -- discussion and forums on Child Abuse and Equal Rights Amendments, funded by the Mississippi Committee for the Humanities.
3. Alcohol and Drug Abuse -- forums and discussions sponsored by the federation and other civil groups.
4. Handbook -- sponsored the writing of handbooks for local clubs use.

At the present time an application is on file in Washington, D. C., for over $2 Million for 100 units for senior citizens to be erected on the property of the Mississippi State Federation at Clinton, Mississippi. When this project is completed, the federation will explore other ways to serve humanity.

Mississippi Women's Cabinet of Public Affairs

The Mississippi Women's Cabinet of Public Affairs is an organization whose membership is composed of local and statewide women's organizations and individual membership. The purpose of this organization is to assemble and channel information, exchange ideas and coordinate efforts on affairs of public interest in the areas of citizenship, legislation, health, welfare, education and recreation. The Cabinet meets twice each year (March and October) in order to disburse the most recent information or to discuss the most current issues in the areas named. Mrs. Hubert Lipscomb of Jackson served as its first president from 1948-50. The presidents who have served since Mrs. Lipscomb have been: Mrs. Ben Stevens, Hattiesburg (1950-51); Mrs. Laurie Mae Carter, Meridian (1951-52); Mrs. W. H. Anderson, Booneville (1952-53); Mrs. S. M. Montgomery, Blanton (1953-55); Mrs. C. D. William, Yazoo City (1955-57); Mrs. A. C. Griffin, Jr., Jackson (1957-59); Mrs. Burnette Y. Hennington, Jackson (1959-61); Mrs. C. W. Eudy, Cleveland (1961-63); Mrs. Maurine C. Twiss, Jackson (1963-64); Mrs. Leon Wilbur, Hattiesburg (1964-65); Miss Christine Drake, University (1965-67); Mrs. Genevieve Harris, Hazlehurst (1967-69); Mrs. Mary Lou McKie, Pickens (1969-71); Dr. Sarah Rouse, Clinton (1971-73); Miss Mary Jane Hall, Jackson (1973-75); Miss Fay Marshall, Raymond (1975-77); Dr. Cora Norman is the current president (1977-78).

National Council of Negro Women

Since its inception, the National Council of Negro Women, founded by Mary McLeod Bethune in 1935, has encouraged black women to assume leadership roles and serve as catalysts for social change. A coalition of twenty-seven national organizations and involved individuals with an outreach to four million women throughout the country, it has utilized the diversity of its membership to increase the internal strength of the black community. It has sought to mobilize women from all walks of life, ages, political persuasions and economic and social backgrounds to address themselves to the problems which plague all of the deprived people of this nation. NCNW programs are based on a philosophy of commitment, unity and self reliance. The energy of its woman power has been harnessed to fight such chronic inequities as racism; inadequate and substandard housing; hunger and malnutrition; insufficient child care centers; drug abuse; inhuman detention centers and prisons; exploitation of the poor; the lack of economic opportunities in the rural south, and demeaning working conditions for household employees. The Jackson section of the NCNW was organized in 1967. They have had four presidens to date in the following order - Mrs. C. C. Mosley, Sr., Mrs Ineva May Pittman, Mrs. Lucille Penquite and Mrs. Ruthie M. Jackson.

National Council Community Program extends to more than four million dollars in housing projects in the Southern and delta sections of the state.

The state NCNW has a direct membership of 900 and 27 affiliates. The Jackson Unit under the direct supervision of Mrs., C. C. Mosley, the state convener, is responsible for two day care centers, and more recently, a nursery, kindergarten center.

Since the Civil Rights Movement of the '60's, NCNW has been helping people to help themselves. Pig Banks were established in Sunflower and Bolivar Counties, Mississippi. Community Gardens and cooperative canning and freezing programs all have helped combat hunger and malnutrition. The Fannie Lou Hamer Day Care Center, Ruleville, meets a great need for children and their families. The Okolona Day Care and Child Development Center on the site of the former Okolona Junior College, Chickasaw County, is a joint venture of NCNW and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

Jackson YWCA

The YWCA of Jackson, Mississippi was chartered by the State of Mississippi January 12, 1921, as a non profit corporation. Minutes of early Board of Directors meetings indicate that providing adequate, acceptable housing for young women coming to the city to work or to secure special training, and working with school girls in club activities were the main thrusts in those years. There was constant work in assisting women to find employment.

Many opportunities for leadership were provided by the YWCA with members of the board responsible for all fundraising to support programs.

As early as 1925 there is a record of contact and involvement with the Negro YWCA (a separate organization) and in 1945 work with black women and girls was incorporated into the Jackson YWCA. This brought new dimensions to the association. In the 60's many challenges ensued, and the YWCA moved through this period of undertainty developing relationships between black and white women. Opportunities to share leadership roles brought new understandings of local needs. This has helped to identify problems which affect all women and the need to find and develop resources for their solution.

The Jackson YWCA continues to offer a wide range of services including: informal education classes, leadership training, work with teen women, counseling for employment, residence for young women, supervised recreation for shildren and teens in inner city low income areas. Recently the YWCA provided space in one of its buildings for the Rape Crisis Center office working with the Mississippi Women's Alliance on problems of battered women and women in employment. Providing ways for women to develop their abilities and identifying needs of women continue to be the major emphasis of the Jackson YWCA.

LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Founded in 1920 - the year women's suffrage was written into the Constitution - the League grew out of the National American Woman Association, the organization that spearheaded the 72 year drive to give American women voting rights. The League immediately took up th task of teaching 20 million newly enfranchised women how to carry out their responsibilities as voters.

The League of Women Voters was organized in Mississippi in 1930. A concern for citizen participation in the political process, solid non-partisan information on candidates and issues at election time, a clear voice on issues of public concern, a source for information in registering and voting, helping to shape legislation at all government levels to meet public's needs - all are part of the work of the League of Women Voters of Mississippi.

The League supports equal rights for all, regardless of race or sex. The concern for women has become an important part of our program for the past seven years. In the 1960's the Mississippi LWV sorked very hard to bring about Jury Service for Women. In the 70's we have supported The Equal Rights Amendment and other state legislation to give women more equality. This action has taken place through speakers bureaus, testifying at hearings, letter and phone call campaigns, and supporting the LWV.

The LWV of Mississippi has not included the Equal Rights Amendment as top legislative priority this year, because the bill has never gotten out of committee and we feel our time and money would be wasted. We are giving our support by raising monies for the League of Women Voters of United States' campaign for states which will pass the Amendment. Each member of the League of Women Voters of Mississippi has plkedged money and we are selling bumper stikers, ERA necklaces, and some Local Leagues are having parties to raise money.

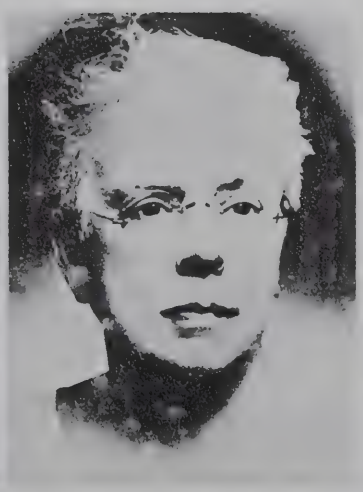
We are hopeful that other states will pass the Equal Rights Amendment giving us as citizens of Mississippi the benefits of its passage, as happened when women were given the right to vote.

NOTABLE WOMEN

By Jean Muirhead

The following biographical sketches were included because of the outstanding accomplishments of these women.

Helen Cannon Bernfield, M.D.



Anne Walter Fearn, M.D.

Mrs. R. O. Hubert

Ernestine Anthony Lipscomb

Nellie Nugent Somerville

Ellen Sullivan Woodward

Aurelia Norris Young

Jean Denman Muirhead

IDA B. WELLS BARNETT, crusader, teacher, journalist, was born of slave parents in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Educated at Rust College, Ida, under an assumed age, began teaching at fifteen, to be the support and substitute parent of her surviving sisters and brothers, her parents and a brother having died in the yellow-fever epidemic of that period. In 1884 she moved to Memphis, Tennessee where she continued her education by attending classes at Fisk University, in the meanwhile working as a teacher in the public schools there. She contributed articles to black newspapers, under the pen name "Iola". In these she exposed the inadequacies of facilities for black school children, for which she was fired from her job. She then turned to full time journalism, and became one of the owners of The Memphis Free Speech. Two incidents marked the turning points in her life - an early incident in the suit against the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad in 1884 in which she was the defendant, having been asked on her way from Woodstock to move from her seat to the smoking car. She got off the train at the next station, returned to Memphis and filed the suite (note the comparison to the Rosa Parks case seventy-one years later December 1, 1955 when she made a decision not to give up her seat to a white man in Montgomery,

The second indicent was the lynching of three young black businessmen in Memphis for reasons, as she so caustically put it, of successful economics. While on a business trip in the east, her offices were burned, and her life was threatened. Thus began her one woman crusade against lynching. She became lecturer, writer and organizer. She brought out in the open the hush-hush subject of all in Victorian Americ - the sexual abuse of black women by white men, and the black rape myth.

On her lecture tours in Great Britain she entered a public controversy with Frances Willard, the National President of Women's Christian Temperance Union, over the question of policies regarding lynching in America.

Upon her return, she became chairman of the Anti-Lynching Bureau of the National Afro-American Council and compiled the first statistical pamphlet on lynching, "The Red Record". She was an important force in the women's club movement. She helped to organize the first black women's club in Chicago; in 1908, she organized the Negro Fellowship League, which maintained a settlement house distinguished by its ties with the community in which it was located; she was a founding member of the NAACP, but withdrew because of its lack of militancy which she so strongly advocated. Mrs. Barnett also founded the first black women's political club.

Ida B. Wells Barnett, fighter against mob violence, fighter for justice, equality, and human decency dies March 25, 1931.

HELEN CANNON BERNFIELD, M.D. - Received her A. B. from the University of Michigan (Phi Beta Kappa) in 1924; an M.D. from the University of Michigan Medical School in 1926. From 1926-1927, she served her internship at University Hospital Ann Arbor, Michigan, and from 1927-1928, her residency at Women's Hospital, Detroit, Michigan. From 1928-1946 she was engaged in the private practice of medicine, most of the time with her late husband, Martin A. Bernfield, who died in August, 1946.

From 1942-1946, she served as a part-time physician with the City Tuberculosis Clinic in San Antonio, Texas.

From 1946-1973, she was Medical Officer at the Veteran's Administration. From 1946-1048, she was in the San Antonio V. A. Regional Office.

From 1948-1951, she was Assistant Chief or Acting Chief of the Tuberculosis Section of the V. A. Hospital in

Jackson, Mississippi, and organized a new unit for the treatment of tuberculosis. During 1951-1952, she attended graduate Medical School at the University of Pennsylvania. From 1952-1973, she was Chief of the Chest Clinic and participated in a nationwide study pf prophylactic chemotherapy in the treatment of tuberculosis.

She is a member of the American Medical Association; a Fellow in the American College of Chest Physicians and served as Secretary-Treasurer of the local chapter from 1957-1961; Secretary-Treasurer of Local Chapter Thoracic Society from 1966-1968; Vice-President, American Medical Women's Association from 1962-1964; and National Legislative Chair of that organization from 1964-1965; Treasurer, Pan American Medical Women's Alliance from 1967 to the present.

Her civic participation includes President, Capitol Business & Professional Women's Club of Jackson for 1950-1951 and 1953-1954. From 1949-1950, she served as chair of the Mississippi B&PW's Health and Safety Committee;from 1952-1953, she was chair of the National Security Committee and from 1965 to the present, she has served as chair of the State Nurses' Scholarship Loan Committee. Dr. Bernfield served as President of Altrusa Club of Jackson from 1965-1966 and 1968-1969. She participated in the organization of Goodwill Industries and served on its Board of Directors for six years. She aided in the organization of the Society for the Prevention of Blindness and served on its Board of Directors from 1967. She became a member of Common Cause/Mississippi in 1974 and served as chair of the State ERA Committee that same year. She is a recipient of the Mississippi Federation of B&PW Clubs' State Award and was one of their Women of Achievement in 1971. She was awarded the Service to Mankind Award by the Sertoma Club of Jackson in 1972. She received a National Rehabilitation Certificate of Appreciation from the American Legion in 1970. She was awarded the State of Mississippi's Certificate of Appreciation for donated service to handicapped Mississippians during 1967, 1968 and 1969.

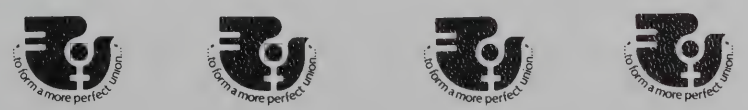
ANNE WALTER FERN, M.D. (1867-1939) She was the daughter of Col. Harvey Washington Walter, a plantation owner and lawyer who, together with three of his sons, died of Yellow Fever in 1878.

Dr. Fearn's home was the Walter Mansion at Holly Springs, Mississippi. She was educated at Holly Springs Presbyterian Sunday School; Charlotte Female Institute in North Carolina (now Women's College of South Carolina); Cooper Medical School in San Francisco, California; and was an 1893 graduate of Women's Medical College, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

While visiting with her brother in California, recuperating from malaria, she decided to become a physician and wrote her mother of her decision. Her mother's reply was, "No disgrace has yet fallen upon your father's name. Should you persist in carrying out your mad determination to study medicine, I shall never again recognize you as my daughter." However, her mother later relented and was justifiably proud of her rebelious dauther.

Dr. Margaret Polk, President of the Women's Medical College of Pennsylvania Association, was preparing for work in the mission field as physician in charge of the Women's Hospital in Soocho, China. Dr. Fearn offered to go there for one year while Dr. Polk completed another year's work in hospitals in the United States. Dr. Polk offered to pay Dr. Fearn's expenses to China and assured her the Woman's Board of Foreign Missions would pay her salary for a year. Dr. Fearn declined to go as a missionary, but agreet to go as a physician for one year and if Dr. Polk were not ready at the end of that year to continue for another or even two more years. She went to China in 1893 to the Women's Hospital in Soochow where she stayed for ten years. She built a children's wing, instituted a vocational school, established the first coeducational medical school in China and did much to overcome the Chinese distrust of the "foreign devil". Her whirlwind energy earned her the nickname, "the Small Typhoon". She remained in China for forty years, fighting against ignorance, superstitution, filth and disease. She married Dr. John Burrus Fearn in 1903 and moved to Shanghai where she opened the Fearn Sanitarium.

Her sister, Irene, was married to Oscar Johnson, later to become a great financier, and her sister Minnie, married Henry C. Myers, Mississippi's Secretary of State (1878-1886). Robert Lowry, Governor of Mississippi from 1882-1890, and a long-time friend of her father's, invited her to make her debut from the Governor's Mansion in Jackson.



URSALA J. WADE FOSTER (Mrs.), pioneer organizer of clubs, was a Mississippian by adoption. She came to Alcorn College, Mississippi as a graduate of Atlanta Unviersity and native of Atlanta, Georgia. Mr. J. R. Chambliss, long-time friend of Mrs. Wade and protege in shoe repairing of Mr. Wade, has this to say of her. "She was a club woman extraordinary. Any type of community activity for the uplife of humanity, Mrs. Wade was there.

Leaving Alcorn she came to Jackson where she resumed club activity as well as church activity. She was a dietitian, a matron (as they were then called) of girls at Jackson College, a musician (she composed the state club song on her way to Tuskegee for the Southeastern region meet) served as first president of the newly organized federated clubs, then secretary, vice president, member of the finance, executive and advisory board, editor of **The Herald** for four years and organizer of other clubs. At her church — Pearl Street AME — she was teacher of Sunday school, superintendent, if need be, and any other office where whe could serve."

She was a mother and proud family woman. Indeed, she was the spark behind many Christian endeavors.

EVELYN GANDY — Elected Lieutenant Governor of the State of Mississippi for the 1976-1980 administration. She was elected state treasurer for the 1960-1964 administration, the first woman to win election to a statewide constitutional office.

A native of Forrest County, Mississippi, she attended Hattiesburg High School, University of Southern Mississippi and University Mississippi School of Law. She was legislative assistant to the late Senator Theodore G. Bilbo. She served in the Mississippi House of Representatives from Forrest County and was later attorney for the Department of Public Welfare and an Assistant Attorney General. After having served as Commissioner of Public Welfare from 1964-1967, she was elected to second term as State Treasurer in 1967 without opposition. She was elected Commissioner of Insurance in 1971.

FANNIE LOU HAMER, was born in Montgomery County, Mississippi, in 1917. One of the first Blacks to register to vote, she was ousted from her home and place of employment as a result.

She was a Loyalist Democrat delegate to the National Democratic Conventions in 1964 and 1968 and throughout her life sought for fair and humane treatment of her people.

She was very active in the National Council of Negro Women. During the decade of the Civil Rights Movement she organized community gardens where poor Black and White people could come together and pick vegetables to be canned for future use. Fannie Lou Hamer said "You can't mobilize hungry people."

She suffered during the Civil Rights movement. Mrs. Hamer was kicked, jailed and prosecuted. But she never stopped. One of her most publicized acts was her stand at the National Democratic Convention in Atlantic City in 1964. She was a leader in the Freedom Democratic Party.

Claire Collins Harvey of Jackson, Mississippi, is a Mississippian who has made significant contributions for change in the lives of women through business, civic, and religious activities. For this she has been recognized in many ways.

On May 15, 1977, the Doctorate of Humane Letters was conferred on her by Spelman College. This is the first honorary degree received by any of the thousand graduates in the ninty-six years of the institution's history. The Honorable Patricia Harris, Director of HUD, commencement speaker, received the secondary honorary degree, the Doctor of Letters.

In 1976 Dr. Harvey was the first black American and the fourth woman to receive the Upper Room International Citation and Award for world wide service to humanity.

Church Woman of the Year Award was given her in 1974 by the national group, Religious Heritage of America, Inc.

Other similarly significant awards have been made to Mrs. Harvey and she listed in numerous **Who's Who** published in the U.S.A., Canada and overseas. Some of her activities that brought this kind of recognition lies in the fact that she is:

President and owner of Collins Funeral Home and Insurance Company and former partner with her mother, Mrs. Mary A. Collins in ownership and management for twenty-five years.

She is founder of Jackson Branch YWCA, State Mutual Savings and Loan Association (a multi-million dollar

institution), Womanpower Unlimited - an interracial civil rights support movement of Jewish, Catholic and Protestent women.

She served as national president of Church Women United in U.S.A. 1971-1974 - involving more than 30,000,000 women, the largest women's movement in the world. The Church Women United International World Day of Prayer, binds women in 169 countries.

She held the chair for Unit III - Education and Renewal of the World Council of Churches, Geneva, Switzerland 1972-1975. Dr. Harvey was the first woman to chair a unit of the World Council of Churches, the Woman's Dest, which works with women in the ninety countries. The historic woman's world conference, SEXISM IN THE SEVENTIES, held in West Berlin in the summer 1974 was a part of her planning and leadership with the World Council of Churches.

In 1977 Dr. Harvey was a part of the Coordinating Committee for the State Conference of IWY and an official observer from Mississippi for the Houston, Texas national meeting.

MRS. R. O. HUBERT, wife of Mr. M. M. Hubert, state agent, agricultural extension work, Jackson.

Organizations in which Mrs. Hubert was interested and served as member are Mary Church Terrell Literary Club - president for thirty-two years; secretary and president of Harmonic Music Club, Inc.; Mississippi State Inter-Racial Commission; charter member — Jackson Juvenile Council Bethelem Center; administrative board — secretary and chairman, one term; Bettie C. Marino Branch YWCA — charter members, first chairman administative board, charter member — Mississippi State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, Inc.; auditor, recording secretary, president, life member and chairman of board of directors and treasurer; president of the Eighth District Federation of Colored Women's Clubs.

GRACE ALLEN JONES (Mrs. Laurence C.) The summer of 1912 Principal Jones once more left a skeleton staff to hold down the school, tend the garden, and continue the extension work in the surrounding country while he headed north...Ever since that night in Iowa City when he had met that "bright little woman" who was raising money for the Kentucky College, Grace Allen had occupied a special place in him mind. When he met Grace Allen in Des Moins that summer he saw that this indefatigable woman in addition to her work for the Kentucky College, a school in Burlington, Iowa which she founded single-handed for black children, was to be his guiding light. Leaving this, she went to the University of Chicago to take special training in public speaking. In October of 1912 Laurence brought Grace to Piney Woods as his wife and helpmate. There she spent sixteen years of service to the community and the state. She was mother, instructor, school teacher, and many times cook and laundress. She loved every individual and whatever she did for them resolved itself into loving service. Not only for Piney Woods did she work, but for the community and the state as well. She organized the Piney Woods Mothers' Club, served as president of the State Federation of Colored Women's Clubs for five years, reorganized it and developed it from a half dozen clubs to more then sixty, and initiated such efforts as attempting to secure a bill from the Legislature creating a juvenile court and providing for a school for delinquent colored children.[1]

ERNESTINE ANTHONY LIPSCOMB, Director of the Jackson State University Library, has been associated with the University since October, 1947, when she was appointed head librarian under the administration of President Jacob L. Reddix.

A native of Atlanta, Georgia, she is a product of the public school system, where she was valedictorian of her class at Booker T. Washington High School; and an honor graduate of Spelman College where she received the Bacholor of Arts degree with a major in history.

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[1] Laurence C. Jones, **The Pine Torch**, XVII (April 1928).

She received the Masters of Arts degree in history from Atlanta University where she was greatly influenced by two of her teachers, Dr. W.E.B. DuBois and Dr. Rayford W. Logan. Mrs. Lipscomb, a recipient of a fellowship from the General Education Board, received the Master's Degree in Library Science from Columbia University, New York City.

Her experience as a librarian began as a student assistant at Spelman College and Atlanta University Libraries. Upon her graduation from college, she was employed as a full time library staff member at Spelman College.

On July 1, 1942, Mrs. Lipscomb joined the Reference Staff of the Schomburg Collection of Negro Life and History, New York City Public Library, where Dr. Lawrence D. Reddick was curator and an assemblage of professionals concerned with the power of reading and ideas were her associates. There she met such well known authors as Richard Wright, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Margaret Walker Alexander, St. Clair Drake, Shirley Graham, and Augusta Baker.

In addition to her administrative assignments, Mrs. Lipscomb has been involved in numerous other functions while at Jackson State University. She has served as sponsor of the campus YWCA. She has served as a member of the Academic Conference, the Curriculum Committee, the Faculty Library Committee, and the Faculty Senate. She has taught classes for teacher-librarians, and she has served as a member of visiting teams for the evaluation of Mississippi public high schools. She has consulted for the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries' Grants Awards Committee, the American Medical Association, the Allied Services, the Medical Records Library of the Unversity of Mississippi Medical School, and various conferences.

Mrs. Lipscomb has participated in several library workshops and conferences which include: "The Role of the Library in Improving Education in the South" at Atlanta and Emory Universities, and "The Function of the Library School. She has also presented papers during a "Workshop on Bibliographic Resources for a Study of the American Negro" at Howard University sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities and at the fourth annual "Conference and Library Orientation for Academic Libraries" at Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, Michigan. Mrs. Lipscomb has contributed articles, book reviews, and bibliographies to the following publications: **The Journal of Educational Sociology, Negro History Bulletin, New York Public Library Bulletin, Mississippi Library News, and Mississippi Teachers Association Journal.**

She was recently invited by the Council on Library Resources, Inc., Washington, D.C., to serve on a committee to review and select ten recipients from more than two hundred higher education institutions for a new "Library Services Enhancement Program, 1976-77" to help academic libraries achieve a more central role in the learning process through library-faculty cooperation.

Mrs. Lipscomb is a member of Central United Methodist Church and active in community and civic organization. She is the wife of Mr. Edward L. Lipscomb and the sister of Mr. Earl Anthony, Jr.

BURNITA SHELTON MATTHEWS, a native of Burnell, Mississippi, was born on December 28, 1894. She received her law degree from the National University Law School in 1919 and began practicing law in Washington, D.C., in 1920. She served as a faculty member of the Washington College of Law. She was active in securing equal rights for women. In 1949, President Harry Truman appointed her a judge of the Federal Court in the District of Columbia. She was the first woman in the nation to become a U.S. District Judge.

ANNIE COLEMAN PEYTON was born in Madison County, Mississippi, on September 12, 1852. She was educated at Whitworth College in Brookhaven, Mississippi. She married E.G. Peyton in 1872.

She founded the Industrial Institute and College at Columbus, Mississippi, later known as Mississippi State College for Women and even later as Mississippi University for Women. She was a professor of history at the college from 1885 to 1898.

MATTIE FOOTE ROWAN (Mrs. L.J.). In 1903 the first united effort of women to organize a state federation was pioneered by Mrs. U.J. Wade-Foster, Mrs. L. J. Rowan of Alcorn, and Mrs. L. W. Coleman of Greenville. Such an organization was effected when six clubs of the state met in Jackson at the Pearl Street AME Church. Mrs. U. J. Wade-Foster became the first president, Mrs. Rowan, a secretary. From 1909-1912, she served as president of the organization; for eleven years as corresponding secretary; ten years as financial secretary; a member of the board of directors; editor of the young people's department in the **Herald**, the official mouthpiece of the federation; eight years as state organizer, being the first to organize a junior club, known as the Chain of Friendship Clubs. For years she was known as the leading force in club work not only on Alcorn College Campus, but in the communities as well.

She was the wife of the late President L. J. Rowan of Alcorn and mother of four talented daughters.

HAZEL BRANNON SMITH, newspaper editor in Lexington, Mississippi, was born in Gadsden, Alabama, the daughter of an electrical contractor. She courageously exposed white terrorism during the civil rights activities of the 1960's. Her courage earned her a cross-burning and a boycott of her newspapers. She published **The Lexington Advertiser** and some smaller county weeklies. It has been said of her that she had an editor's gift for bringing up realities that most folks would as soon ignore. The public-health office wanted to set up a clinic to treat veneral diseases among the poor, but doctors opposed it as socialism. Mrs. Smith published the sordid statistics on the VD rate. It was said to her, "Ladies just don't talk about veneral disease." "Well, I ain't no lady, I'm a newspaper woman" was her answer.

NELLIE NUGENT SOMERVILLE, of Greenville, Mississippi was born September 25, 1864, near present site of Greenville in Washington County, the daugher of William Lewis Nugent of East Baton Rouge, La., and his wife Eleanor Fulkerson (Smith) Nugent, who was the daughter of Abram Fulkerson and S. Myra (Cox) Smith, of Washington County, Miss. William Lewis Nugent lived at Greenville when he first moved to Mississippi and later at Jackson. He was a prominent lawyer, served as Second Lieutanant Company D., 28th Mississippi Regiment of Cavalry, C.S.A. Died January 18, 1897. Mrs. Somerville's paternal grandparents were John Nugent and his wife, Ann (Lewis) Nugent, of Opelousas, La. After receiving her early education in the preparatory department of Whitworth College at Brookhaven, Mississippi, Mrs. Somerville was graduated from Martha Washington College, Abingdon, Va., with a B.A. degree in 1882. As a member of the House of Representatives from Washington County, Mrs. Somerville was Chairman of the Committee on Eleemosynary Institutions. She is a Democrat, very active member of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South; member of the Eastern Star; First President of Mississippi Woman Suffrage Association; 2nd Vice-President National American Woman Suffrage Association in 1915; President in 1926 of the Mississippi State WCTU; Chairman Woman's Com. Washington County Council of National Defense during World War; Delegate from State at Large to National Democratic Convention, New York, 1924; member of D.A.R. In May, 1885, at Jackson, Mississippi, she married to Robert Somerville, the son of Robert Briggs Somerville and his wife, Laura (Gray) Somerville, who lived at Richmond, Va. Their four children live at Cleveland, Mississippi, and are: Robert Nugent married Keith Frazier; Abram Douglass married Evelyn Estes; Eleanor, married Audlye W. Shands; Lucy R., President, Mississippi State Board of Law Examiners, and United States Court Commissioner for southern district of Mississippi.

HARRY HULEN, of Grace, was born April 21, 1886, at Gainesville, Texas. Representative Hulen was elected in 1923 to the House of Representatives from Washington County for the term of 1924-28, during which he served as Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs. When elected he was a farmer, a member of the Episcopal Church, a Mason, Shriner, Elk, American Legion and member Disabled Emergency Officers of the World War. (No biographical data was furnished at the Historical Department.)

LUISA HARRIS STEWART, native of Minter City, Mississippi, and star of the Delta State University's Lady Statesmen, was awarded the first Broderick Cup (1978) as the Outstanding Woman Athlete of the Year by the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women.

She was Delta State's first recruit when the team was started five years ago. She won the most valuable player honors each of her four varsity years.

She scored the first basket ever in women's Olympic basketball in 1976 and led the United States team in scoring and rebounding. The U.S. team won the silver medal that year.

ELLEN SULLIVAN WOODWARD, born July 11, 1887, in Oxford, Lafayette County, Mississippi, to U.S. Senator William V. and Mrs. Belle Murray Sullivan. She married Judge Albert Y. Woodward and they had one son, Captain Albert Y. Sullivan.

Mrs. Woodward was elected to fill the vacancy in the Mississippi House of Representatives caused by the death of her husband Judge Albert Young Woodward on February 6, 1925, and thus became the second woman to serve in the House of Representatives. She served during the 1926 Session with Nellie Nugent Somerville, the first women every to be elected to the Mississippi House.

She was the assistant administrator in charge of the Women's Division, Civil Works Administration and Federal Emergency Relief Administration from 1933-1935. She faced the difficult task of finding work for 500,000 women in the United States. She was appointed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt as Assistant Administrator of the WPA from 1935-1938.

She was appointed director of the office of Internal Relations, Federal Social Security Administration in 1946. She served as a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nation's Relief and Rehabilitation Administration.

For years she served as National Committeewoman and was a delegate at large to the 1928 Democratic National Convention. She was chairman of the Public Affairs Committee of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs. A noted hostess, musician and author, she died September 24, 1971.

MRS. JULIA B. KENDRICK was the first woman to win election to the office of Mississippi Supreme Court Clerk (1968).

UNITA BLACKWELL was the first black female to be elected a Mayor. (Mathiston, Mississippi)

MRS. ELIZABETH HULEN GRAYSON was the first woman lawyer from Mississippi to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

JUDGE LENORE PRATHER was the first woman to serve as a Chancery Judge.

JUDGE ZELMA PRICE was the first woman to serve as a County Judge.

MISS ANNIE MAY DENMAN, a native of Tallahatchie County, was the first blind person to graduate from Mississippi State College for Women in 1919.

AURELIA NORRIS YOUNG, musician, composer, performer, lecturer, and writer was born December 9, 1915, at Knottsville, Kentucky. Her elementary and high school years were spent in New London, Ohio where she studied piano with Letha Spade, violin with John Richards, and graduated among the top ten of her class. At Wilberforce University, she studied music theory with Anna Terry, organ with Grace Wailes, and French horn with James McCray, before graduating with honors in 1937.

She receive the Master of Music degree from Indiana University in 1955. She has also studied in France, the Scandinavian countries, and in East Africa at universities in Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, and Ethiopia.

Mrs. Young has been the recipeint of numerous educational financial awards. Scholarships have been awar-

ded by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the Greene County Republican Women's Club. Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, and Indiana University. She received a grant from the United States Department of State.

Before coming to Jackson State University in 1947, Mrs. Young taught at Tougaloo and Campbell Colleges. At Jackson State, she helped to establish a music program leading to the Bachelor of Science degree; and in 1954, Dr. Jacob L. Reddix, then president, encouraged her to plan the Bacholor of Music Education degree program. Her other activities in education at Jackson State have included participation in the drafting and implementation of the past and present humanities programs.

Mrs. Young has been a member of and held leadership positions on numerous boards, commissions, and more than a dozen organizations including: Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, The National Council of the American Association of University Professors and Committee on the Status of Women; Committee of One Hundred Women appointed by Hubert Humphrey; the Diocean Council and the Mississippi State Council on Human Relations. She was the first woman and classroom teacher to serve as president of the Higher Education Department of Mississippi Teachers Association.

Mrs. Young is a prolific writer. Her poems and her articles have been widely published. In addition, her unpublished works include four short stories and five travel narratives.

Her compositions include "Song Cycle for Voice and Piano"; "Theme and Variations in G Sharp Minor for Piano", more than fifty songs and vocal arrangements, duo-piano, and violin; music for two operattas written by Hal Cohen of Hauppauge, New York.

She has been the recipient of numerous honors and citations. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has recognized her on local, regional, and national levels. She has received citations from Southern Region of Joint Action in Community Services (JACS); Middle Mississippi Girl Scouts; NAACP; and the Jackson Links. The honorary Doctor of Music degree was conferred on her by Campbell College in 1953; she was inducted into Phi Delta Kappa in 1975, and received the Mable Carney Chapter, SNEA Teacher of the Year citation in 1975. Her biography is listed in innumerable publications.

She is the widow of Jack Harvey Young, nationally known civil rights attorney, and the mother of two children, Jack H. Young, Jr., and Hilda Jeanette Young.

WOMEN LAWYERS AND LEGISLATORS

MISSISSIPPI: PIONEER IN WOMEN'S RIGHTS

by
Jean D. Muirhead

Married women in Mississippi have property rights due to a Chickasaw Indian princess, Betsy Love, who was married to a white man, John Allen. Princess Betsy brought into the marriage considerable wealth, including a slave. The Supreme Court of Mississippi, in 1837, ruled that Chickasaw tribal customs which gave married women the privilege of owning property free and separate from their husbands prevented John Allen's creditors from seizing her property to pay his debts.

Two years later, in 1939, the Mississippi Legislature passed the first law of any state in the Union giving married women the right to own and dispose of property, to contract, to sue and be sued.

Opponents of the bill included Robert Josselyn of Lafayette County, Mississippi, who said, "Pass the bill and what will be the result? Where there should be union, there will be division. Confidence will be impaired, jealousy will arise, matrimonial quarrels will occur, domestic happiness will be lost. The sanctity of the law that husband and wife are one will be no longer true. There will be two heads of the family -- two separate interests."

MISS EUPLE DOZIER, native of Fulton, Itawamba County, Mississippi, was appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Mississippi in 1955, the first woman in the nation to be appointed and serve as a U.S. Attorney.

She was elected County Prosecuting Attorney of Itawamba County, Mississippi in 1963 for four-year term beginning January 1, 1964.

She served as state president of Mississippi Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs 1969-1970; She also served as Preceptor for Mrs. Nell C. May who successfully passed the Mississippi Bar Examination in 1964. It is believed that Miss Dozier is the first woman lawyer in Mississippi to serve as a Preceptor.

Appointed attorney for the Board of Supervisors in Itawamba County, Mississippi, in January, 1965, a job she still holds, she was the first woman attorney in Mississippi to be appointed attorney for a board of supervisors.

Chairman of the U.S. District Court's (Northern District of Mississippi) Commission for determination of value of land being acquired for public use by the Tennessee Valley Authority, She was chairman of other commissions appointed by U.S. District Court for trial of condemnation cases in the Tenn-Tom Waterway and the Yazoo River Basis Project. Miss Dozier has served on the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board since her appointment by Governor Cliff Finch on May 22, 1976.

LUCY SOMERVILLE HOWORTH was born July 1, 1895, at Greenville, Mississippi, the daughter of Robert and Nellie Nugent Somerville. Judge Howorth's mother was the first female to serve in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1924-1928. Judge Howorth represented Hinds County in the Mississippi House of Representatives from 1932-1934. She was married to Joseph Marion Howorth in 1928.

Judge Howorth was graduated from Randolph-Macon Woman's College in 1916; she did postgraduate work at Columbia University in 1918; and received her law doctorate, **summa cum laude**, from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1922. She served as chairman of the Mississippi State Board of Law Examiners from 1924-1928.

She served as United States Commissioner for the Southern District of Mississippi from 1927-1931. Appointed by Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1934 as an associate member of the Board of Veteran's Appeals, she served in that position until 1943. She served as principal attorney in the office of legislation for the Veterans Administration from 1943-1949. She was vice president and director of the VA Employees Credit Union from 1937-1949. She was Assistant General Counsel of the War Claims Commission from 1949-1952, Deputy General Counsel from 1952-1953; and General Counsel from 1953-1954. She served as attorney for the Commission on Government Security from 1956-1957; and entered the private practice of law in Cleveland, Mississippi, in 1958.

She served as a national director and second vice president of the American Association of Unversity Women from 1951-1955; as Director of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs and representative to the

international Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs in 1939 and chaired that group's international conference in 1946.

She was a delegate to the national Democratic convention in 1932.

She served as editor of the **Federal Bar Association News** in 1944 and as associate editor of the **Federal Bar Association Journal** from 1943-1944.

JEAN DENMAN MUIRHEAD, a native of Charleston, Tallahatchie County, Mississippi, attended Delta State, the Jackson School of Law, and was licensed to practice law on October 15, 1967.

She was elected State Senator from Hinds County, Mississippi, for the 1968-1972 administration, and was the first woman to be so elected from Hinds County. She was the author of an amendment adopted at the 1968 legislative session which permitted Mississippi women to serve on state court juries.

Attorney Muirhead was the first vice president, Mississippi Women Lawyers Association. In 1970 she was selected Woman of Achievement by the Jackson Business & Professional Women's Club. She is very active in many civic and professional organizations.

Attorney Muirhead was the presiding officer at the Plenary Sessions of the Mississippi IWY State Women's Meeting.

MRS. ELIZABETH HULEN GRAYSON, a native of Hinds County, Mississippi, was educated in the Jackson Public Schools, Millsaps College, Agnes Scott College, and graduated from the Jackson School of Law in 1934. For more than forty years she was a partner in the firm of Watkins and Eager. Known as a "lawyer's lawyer", Mrs. Grayson was an expert in appellate advocacy. She argued cases before the Mississippi Supreme Court, the U.S. Court of Appeals; she was the first woman lawyer from Mississippi to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court.

CONSTANCE IONA SLAUGHTER (HARVEY) was graduated from Tougaloo College where she served as president of Student Government. She was the first black female to graduate from the University of Mississippi School of Law and the first black female laywer to serve as a City Judge. She was commissioned by the International Women's Year to prepare a study of the status of homemakers in Mississippi which she completed in June, 1977.

She is presently in private practice and is Executive Director of Southern Legal Rights Association. From February 1970 to September, 1972, she was staff attorney for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under LAw.

Ms. Slaughter was selected by **Ms.** magazine in 1973 as a "found woman;" received the Woman of the Year award in 1972 from Greyhound Corporation; became the first female and first black to served as special chancellor in the Second Judicial District of Mississippi; and received the Outstanding Mississippian Award in 1974. Ms. Slaughter serves on more than 20 State-wide, regional and national boards. She is a member of the Women's Action Alliance (New York) and the American Friends Service Committee (SERO), in addition to many other boards.

BETTY B. TUCKER, born in Alabama, moved to Jackson, Mississippi at an early age due to the tragic death of her father, a steam boat captain. She attended the Jackson public schools, Mississippi State College for Women (now Mississippi University for Women), and the Jackson School of Law.

Appointed Chancellor of the fifth Chancery District, Division III, by Governor Bill Waller in 1973, she sought and won a full term from 1975-1979. She is the second woman to serve as a chancellor in Mississippi.

Judge Tucker is recognized far and wide for her efforts over the years to secure for Mississippi women the right to sit on state court juries. As the Chair for the Legislation Committee of the Business and Professional Women's Clubs, she was instrumental in securing legislative hearings on the proposal which were participated in by women from all over the state. One legislator from Lamar County who ridiculed the proposal and later sought the office of Lieutenant Governor was defeated because of his stand. Another legislator from Hinds County who opposed the proposition was also defeated in a second primary due to opposition from Judge Tucker and others. As an indication of the obstacles facing women seeking the right to serve on juries, Judge Tucker recalls a state senator from the Gulf Coast who said, "I would not marry a woman who would want to sit on a jury."

After Judge Tucker was admitted to the practice of law, she entered into a partnership with Dixon L. Pyles who specialized in labor law. This was the first male-female law partnership by persons unrelated to each other in the State. Although Judge Tucker's law practice was a general one, she is noted for being the first female in the state to represent unions and was primarily responsible for securing the first injunction for labor unions in this state.

Throughout her career as an attorney, Judge Tucker was active in the affairs of the Bar Association and was the first President of the Conference of Local Bar Associations which had as its goal the formation of local bar associations as affiliates of the State Bar Association. During the time the conference was active, Judge Tucker was the first female attorney to chair an important committee of the State Bar Association.

While chairing the Business and Professional Women's Club's Small Business Service Committee, Judge Tucker was instrumental in having Small Business Administration clinics through the State. At the first state-wide Women's Day Conference held in Jackson, Mississippi, on August 25, 1973, Judge Tucker was the recipient of the Susan B. Anthony Award.

MARY LIBBY PAYNE, a native of Harrison County, Mississippi, was educated at MSCW and Ole Miss. She was executive secretary of the Mississippi Judiciary Commission; the first person to serve in the Legislative Drafting Office. She served as an Assistant Attorney General. Named Interim Dean of the Mississippi College School of Law in 1975, she became permanent dean in 1977, and has the distinction of being the first female to be named dean of a law school in the State of Mississippi and one of the very few in the United States. She is the mother of two sons and the wife of Bobby R. Payne.

MISSISSIPPI WOMEN LEGISLATORS
(PAST AND PRESENT)

SENATE

TERM	NAME	COUNTY
1924-1928	Miss Belle Kearney	Madison
1956-1960	Orene (Mrs. John B.) Farese	Benton
1968-1972	Jean Denman (Mrs. M.L.) Muirhead	Hinds
1968-1976	Berta Lee (Mrs. Gordon) White	Lauderdale
1971-1972	Barbara (Mrs. Jesse L.) Yancy	Calhoun

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TERM	NAME	COUNTY
1924-1928	Nellie Nugent (Mrs. Robert) Somerville	Washington
	Ellen (Mrs. Albert Y.) Sullivan Woodward	Winston
1928-1932	Pauline Alston (Mrs. Walter) Clark	Coahoma
	Mildred Jeffries (Mrs. Nick) Nail	DeSoto
1932-1936	Mrs. Mildren Spurrier Topp	Leflore
	Mrs. Madge Quinn Fugler	Pike
	Luch Somerville (Mrs. Joseph M.) Howorth	Hinds
1936-1940	Minnie Lou (Mrs. John Bole) Robinson	Madison
	Pearl High (Mrs. Horace S.) Stansel	Sunflower
1940-1944	Georgia Mauldin (Mrs. Grafton G.) Bennett	Winston
	Miss Mildred Alexander	Jasper
	Zilpha Ellis (Mrs. Charles F.) Mansell	Madison
	Pearl High (Mrs. Horace S.) Stansel	Sunflower
	Tillie Tann (Mrs. John A.) Clark	Kemper
1944-1948	Mable Wilson (Mrs. J. B.) Bruce	Carroll
	Mrs. Zelma Wells Price	Washington
1948-1952	Mynelle McClurg (Mrs. T. C.) Vaiden	Chickasaw
	Miss Edythe Evelyn Gandy	Forrest
	Miss Anne Virginia Barcliff	Warren
	Mrs. Zelma Wells Price	Washington
	Mrs. Mary Magruder McGehee	Wilkinson
1952-1956	Orene (Mrs. John B.) Farese	Benton
	Thelma W. (Mrs. Paul H.) ¼farr (Baxter)	Jefferson Davis
	Lovie T. (Mrs. W. Fletcher) Gore	Oktibbeha
	Mrs. Zelma Wells Price	Washington
	Miss Jessie Lee Reese	Lee
1956-1960	Lovie T. (Mrs. W. Fletcher) Gore	Oktibbeha
	Miss Betty Jane Long	Lauderdale
1961-1964	Otelia (Mrs. Kelly James) Hammond	Marion
	Miss Betty Jane Long	Lauderdale
	Miss Kathleen M. O'Fallon	Wilkinson
	Gladys (Mrs. Everett) Slayden	Marshall
1964-1968	Miss Betty Jane Long	Lauderdale
	Gladys (Mrs. Everett) Slayden	Marshall
	Berta Lee (Mrs. Gordon) White	Lauderdale
	Alice Snider (Mrs. J. Alton) Phillips	Noxubee
1968-1972	Miss Betty Jane Long	Lauderdale
	Miss Helen Jacobs McDade	Kemper
	Gladys (Mrs. Everett) Slayden	Marshall
1972-1976	Margaret (Mrs. Charles B.) Allen	Itawamba
	Miss Betty Jane Long	Lauderdale
	Miss Helen Jacobs McDade	Kemper
	Gladys (Mrs. Everett) Slayden	Marshall
	Martha Carole (Mrs. John R.) White	Prentiss
1976-1980	Miss Betty Jane Long	Lauderdale
	Miss Helen Jacobs McDade	Kemper

MISSISSIPPI STATUTES AND CASE LAW WHICH DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE SEXES

1. Sec. 71-1-33, Code of 1972, prohibits all female workers except domestic employees from working more than ten hours a day or sixty hours a week.

2. Sec. 93-1-5, Code of 1972, makes a distinction between the legal age for marriage for males and females -- twenty-one for males; eighteen for females. The minimum age for marriage, with parental consent, is seventeen for males and fifteen for females. Permission by a judge for persons under the minimum age is required.

3. Sec. 93-5-23, Code of 1972, allows the Chancery Court to award alimony only to the wife.

4. Sec. 97-3-1 prohibits abduction of a female over the age of fourteen for the purpose of inducing her to marry or to be defiled.

5. Sec. 97-29-3 prohibits sexual intercourse between a male teacher and a female pupil.

6. Sec. 97-29-7 prohibits a male guardian from having sexual relations with his female ward.

7. Sec. 97-5-23 prohibits only males over the age of eighteen from handling, touching or rubbing a child under the age of fourteen for the purpose of gratifying lust.

8. Sec. 97-5-7 prohibits anyone from enticing a male under 21 years or a female under eighteen years away from his or her parents for the purpose of employing the child without consent of the parents.

9. Sec. 97-5-21 prohibits seduction of females under eighteen years.

10. Sec. 97-29-51 prohibits procurement of female inmates for houses of prostitution and prohibits inducing a female to become a prostitute (Sec. 97-29-49, which prohibits prostitution, uses the language "any person", rather than "female").

11. Sec. 97-3-65 makes it a capital offense for persons eighteen years of older to rape a female under twelve, with or without her consent; and prohibits carnal knowledge of a female over twelve without her consent.

12. Sec. 97-3-71 sets the punishment for rape of a female of previous chaste character.

13. Sec. 97-29-61 prohibits only males from voyeurism or pepping through a window or other opening in a building for the purpose of spying upon the occupants.

14. Sec. 215, Mississippi Constitution, makes all males aged eighteen to forty-five subject to state military duty.

15. Sec. 45-3-7 limits hazardous duty with the Mississippi Highway Patrol to men.

16. Sec. 47-1-39, 19-25-71 and 47-1-23 require separate cells or compartments for men and women in state prisons, jails and penal farms.

17. Sec. 13-5-95 requires separate overnight accommodations for women jurors.

18. Sec. 99-19-57 prohibits the execution of a female convict while pregnant.

19. Sec. 21-29-147 establishes pensions for widows of policemen and firemen.

20. Sec. 213-A, Mississippi Constitution and Secs. 37-117-1 and 37-117-3, Code of 1972, provide for a state university for women whose purpose and aim is the moral and intellectual advancement of the "girls" of Mississippi.

21. Sec. 106, Art. IV, Mississippi Constitution, provides that only women are eligible for the position of State Law Librarian. A resolution to amend this section to make either sex eligible will be submitted at the November 1978 election.

22. The Mississippi Supreme Court has defined "rape" as a crime which only a man can commit, and only a woman can be a victim. **Green v. State**, 270 So. 2d 695 (Miss., 1972)

23. When a woman marries her domicile becomes that of her husband. **Bilbo v. Bilbo**, 177 So. 722 (1938)

24. "It is elemental that a husband is entitled to services and earnings of his wife ..." **Gulf Transport Co. V. Allen**, 46 So. 2d 436 (1950)

WOMEN IN SPORTS

By
Cleopatra D. Thompson

Organized athletic activities and sports have a definite place in the development of high standards of sportsmanship, physical development and physical fitness. Teamwork, friendly rivalry, competitive spirit, fellowship and contact are some of the benefits derived from athletic programs. Progress in the development of sports' activities for girls and women has not kept pace with the development of such programs for boys and men in Mississippi. Obstacles arising from traditional set patterns have contributed adversely to woman's progress in sports; therefore, many females have been too shy and too timid to participate in the limited intramural games, interscholastic and intercollegiate sports that were available to them. Lack of finance, facilities, and varied programs have been other contributing factors.

Prior to the late, late 1960's there was more well-organized athletic programs for girls at the high school level than at the college and university level. There were two separate organizations -- the Magnolia State High School Activities Association, sponsored by the Mississippi Teachers Association (MTA), and the Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated, supported by the Mississippi Education Association (MEA). Under court order, on February 8, 1971, the two associations merged to form the new Mississippi High School Activities Association, Incorporated which is a unified organization serving all of the youth in secondary schools in Mississippi.[1] Young women discovered in these high school programs have made history for Mississippi.

While most of the programs for girls were male dominated in the coaching and officiating areas, there were pioneer women who showed by their determination that women had rightful places in sports. Misses Romayne Berryman, Harriett Barnes, and Grace Massengale, Mississippi University for Women, Columbus, Mary Frances Spencer, Oak Park High School, Laurel, Annie B. Purnell and Zipporah Thompson, both of Alexander High School, Brookhaven, Nannie Bell Jenkins, Alcorn State University, Mrs. Alfreda Rutledge, Harris Senior High School, Meridian, and the writer, Cleopatra D. Thompson, were among the first women to promote sports' activities for their sex.

Miss Berryman also promoted intramural swimming at her institution, and developed the first synchronized swimming in the state.[2] Cleopatra D. Thompson was one of the first women to be inducted into the former all male **Letter "A" Club** at Alcorn State University. She coached both boys and girls teams at the Walthall County Training School, Lexie, and girls' team at Okolona College, Okolona.

The above named persons were among the first women to be certified as officials and as judges by the Women's National Officials Rating Committee of the Division for Girls' and Women's Sports of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation. They led the movement to get others to become nationally certified officials for basketball and volleyball which were the two major sports for girls -- tennis, field and track events were introduced through annual **Field Days** during this period.

Boards of the Women's National Official Rating Committee were organized, and clinics were conducted for women and men who elected to qualify as nationally rated officials. Because of these activities some of the state athletic associations voted to use **only** certified personnel for their competitive games. However, high school administrators often chose the certified men over the certified women so that the men could work both male and female games and "save money." Nevertheless, these activities were preludes to present - day activities.

Three black young women have represented not only Mississippi, but America at the World Olympics games -- Willie B. White, Greenwood; Mildred Netter, Rosedale; and Lusia Harris, Minter City.

Willie B. White was one of the first Mississippi female's to be named to an American Olympic team. Although she never won a medal, she holds a high record for serving on three or more teams.

Mildred Netter was a 1968 Olympic Gold Medal winner in track -- a first for Mississippi. Numerous honors have been accorded her for outstanding performances. Among these were the following: "Most Outstanding Female Athlete" from the 100% Wrong Club, Atlanta, Georgia, and the "Outstanding Athlete of the South" Award from the Southern Amateur Athletic Union (AAU). Other citizens were given by the Governor of Mississippi, Alcorn State University National Alumni Association, and the Mississippi Teachers Association.

Lusia Harris is the heroine of women's sports in the 1970's. A former Delta State University All American who won most valuable players' awards each of her four varsity years, has been acclaimed internationally. She was a member of the United States 1976 Olympic Basketball Team where she won a Silver Medal. Also, she scored the first basket ever in women's Olympic games. Her honors are most impressive and numerous. She was awarded the

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[1]Cleopatra D. Thompson, **The History of the Mississippi Teachers Association.** Washington, D.C.: National Education Association Press, 1973. pp. 38-39, and 96.

[2]Interview with Miss Roymane Berryman by telephone.

first Broderick Cup (1978) as the "Outstanding Woman Athlete of the Year by the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW). Another distinguished honor was Homecoming Queen at Delta State University (1975).[3] Also, she made the Clarion-Ledger's Mississippi Athletes of the Year List in three categories: "The number Two Sportsperson of the Year;" The Number one "Female Athlete of the Year," and the Number one "Female Athlete in College Basketball for females.[4]

In his article on Women in Sports, Bill Rhoden had this to say about Miss Harris:"

> "...Perhaps the crowning achievement of the Black woman's post Gibson/Rudolph athletic history is Lusia Harris' ... being drafted on the eighth round of this year's NBA rookie draft by the New Orleans Jazz. Lucy, ..., is the first woman in history drafted by a NBA club..."[5]

Miss Harris declined the draft. She is now married and serving on the faculty of her alma mater, Delta State University.

The work of the pioneer women in sports in Mississippi has emerged into a full-fledged revival of athletics for women, with dynamic leadership from a select group of dedicated women teachers and coaches.

Miss Sadie Magee has made an outstanding record for herself as both a high school and university teacher-coach. She made the Clarion-Ledger's (1977) Mississippi Athletes of the Year List for female College Basketball Coaches. She is a faculty member in the department of Physical Education at Jackson State University.

The most celebrated female coach in Mississippi is Mrs. Margaret Wade, Delta State University. Her championship teams and her students have won state, national and international honors. She is the **first** woman to be inducted into the Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame. She also made the Clarion-Ledger's (1977) Mississippi Athletes of the Year list in two categories: Sportsperson of the Year," and the Number One Female "College Basketball Coach of the Year." The complete list of females who made the Clarion-Ledger 1977 list of athletes follows:

The Clarion-Ledger's Mississipp Athletes Of The Year *

Sportsperson of the Year**
2. Lusia Harris
3. Margaret Wade

Female Athlete of the Year
1. Lusia Harris, Delta State
2. Helen Stodghill
3. Rita Easterling

College Basketball (female)
1. Lusia
2. Rita Easterling, Miss. College
3. Debbie Brock, Delta State
   Bertha Hardy, Jackson State
   Sheila Sullivan, University of Miss.

High School Basketball (female)
1. Pam McDonald, S. Leake
2. Sheila Ladner, Hancock North Central
3. Annie Laurie Witherington, Hatley
4. Nancy Faulk, Harrison Central
   Others: Wilma Duke, Pontotoc:
   Carrie Bell, Pontotoc.

Swimming (combined)
Martina Bebin, St. Andrews;
Julie Miller, Jackson

College Basketball Coach (female)
1. Margaret Wade, Delta State
2. Male
3. Sadie Magee, Jackson State
   Others: Gwen White, Belhaven

High School Basketball Coach (female)
All coaches were males

Track Athlete (female)
1. Michelle Lockhart, Lanier
2. Sandy Rieger, Pearl
3. Debbie Sanders, Lanier

Tennis (female)
1. Elizabeth Allen Lyle, Jackson
2. Ann Ethridge, Miss. Univ. for Women
3. Catherine Yelverton, St. Andrews
   Others: Meg Elliott, Brookhaven

Amateur Golf (female)
1. Helen Stodghill, Jackson
2. Lou Weddington Hart, Meridian
3. Mary Ann Edge, Jackson
   Others: Amy Carter, Meridian
   Harriett Cauthen, Clarksdale

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[3] Lusia Harris -- First Black Homecoming Queen at Delta State," **The Mississippi Enterprise,** (November 15, 1975), 1.

[4]The Clarion-Ledger's Mississippi Athletes of the Year," **The Clarion-Ledger Jackson Daily News,** (December 25, 1977, Section B), 2.

[5]Bill Rhoden, Women in Sports," **Ebony** (Special Issue) XXII No. 10 (August 1977), 64.

MISSISSIPPI
IWY STATE MEETING

(MAP SHOWING AREAS COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS ORGANIZED.)

1. PRENTISS
   - Tishomingo
   - Alcorn
   - Tippah
   - Union
   - Lee
   - Ittawamba
   - Benton

2. TATE
   - Marshall
   - DeSoto
   - Tunica
   - Panola
   - Layafette
   - Quitman

3. SUNFLOWER
   - Coahoma
   - Bolivar
   - Tallahatchie
   - Lefore
   - Washington
   - Humphreys

4. HINDS
   - Yazoo
   - Sharkey
   - Issaquena
   - Warren
   - Rankin
   - Madison
   - Holmes

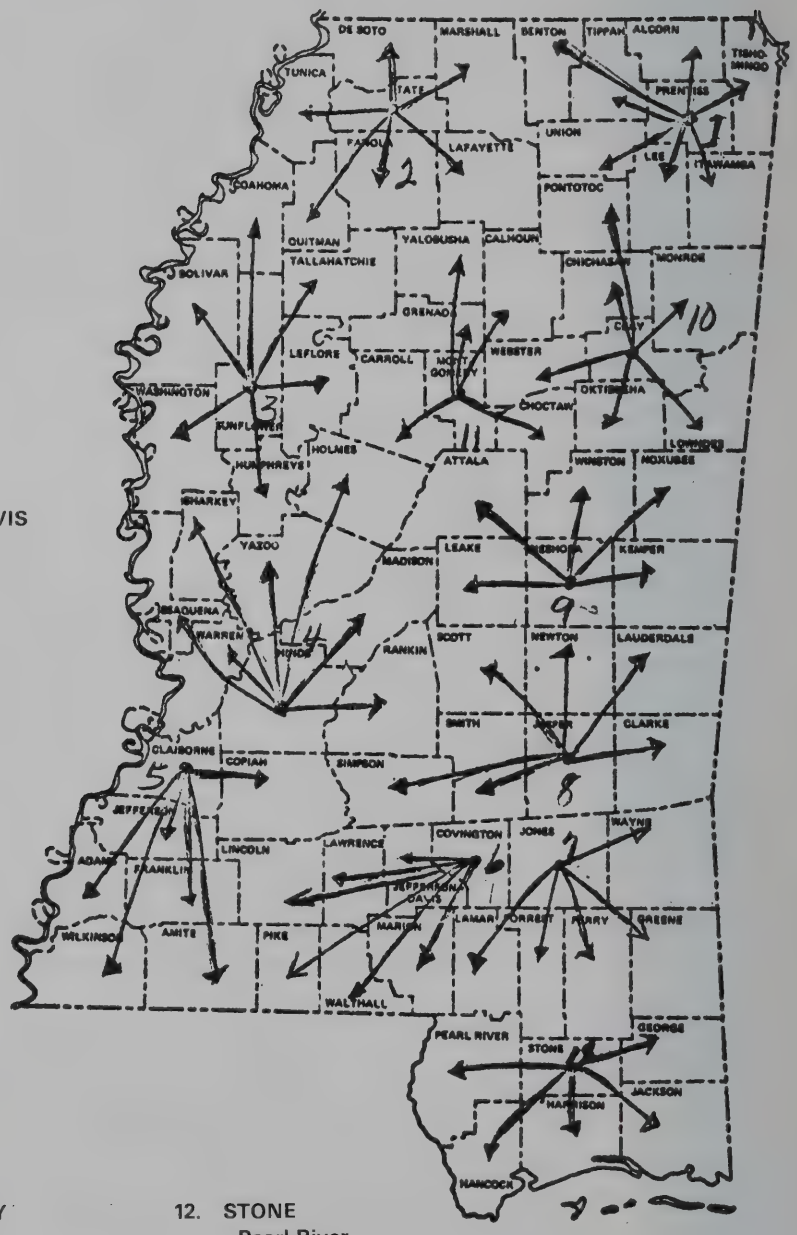
5. CLAIBORNE
   - Copiah
   - Jefferson
   - Adams
   - Franklin
   - Wilkinson
   - Amite

6. JEFFERSON DAVIS
   - Covington
   - Marion
   - Lawrence
   - Walthall

7. JONES
   - Lamar
   - Forrest
   - Perry
   - Wayne

8. JASPER
   - Clarke
   - Lauderdale
   - Newton
   - Scott
   - Smith
   - Simpson

9. NESHOBA
   - Kemper
   - Noxubee
   - Winston
   - Leake
   - Attala



10. CLAY
    - Oktibbeha
    - Lowndes
    - Webster
    - Monroe
    - Chickasaw
    - Pontotoc

11. MONTGOMERY
    - Choctaw
    - Calhoun
    - Yalobusha
    - Grenada
    - Carroll

12. STONE
    - Pearl River
    - Hancock
    - Harrison
    - Jackson
    - George

Registration

Registration

Plenary Speakers

Talent

Speakout

Voting

ABSTRACT OF MINUTES OF MISSISSIPPI IWY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the Mississipoi IWY Coordinating Committee was held in the Continuation Study Center Auditorium of the University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi, on **February 26, 1977,** at 9:00 a.m.

Following an indoctrination session led by Dorothy Dow of the National Headquarters of IWY, an election of officers and executive committee was held. Elected were: *Chair, Jessie Mosley; Vice-Chair, Kathie Gilbert; Fiscal officer, Barbara Pittman; Secretary, Janice Moor; Program, Cora Norman; Arrangements, Bobbye Henley; Publicity, Sarah Johnson; Finance, Thelma Zinner; Final Report, Janice Moor; Outreach, Natalie Mason; and History, Geneva White.*

The Executive Committee met at 10:00 o'clock a.m. on **March 8, 1977,** at the Coliseum Ramada Inn in Jackson with seven members present. Barbara Pittman reported on her trip to IWY National Headquarters in Washington and explained the requirements for a state conference. An operating budged was discussed and tentative expenses projected.

The Committee met at 9:00 o'clock a.m. on **March 22, 1977,** at the Research and Development Center in Jackson with twelve members present. The budget was adopted as proposed. Three additional members were named to the Committee: Betty Jo Hines, Greenville; Ann McAllister, Columbus; and Jennifer Shaalan, Corinth.

The Chair reported that she and the fiscal officer had been bonded and that they opened a checking account and rented office space at 1018 Pecan Circle, Jackson. Responsibilities delegated to the committee were discussed.

Sarah Johnson resigned as Chair of the Publicity Committee and Willie Mae Latham Taylor was appointed to fill the vacancy. Anita Blackwell was appointed Sergeant at Arms and Cleopatra Thompson was appointed to chair the Foreign Constituency Committee.

Cora Norman gave details on the progress of the Program Committee. Workshop topics were discussed. It was decided to hold the State Conference at the Holiday Inn Downtown. Committee members were asked to assist in compiling a list of all women's organizations in the state so that all of them could be contacted concerning the state conference. Janice Moor asked to be relieved of the responsibility as the Chair of the Registration Committee.

The Publicity and Program Committees of the Coordinating Committee met **April, 14, 1977,** at 1:30 o'clock p.m. in the Student Union Building of the University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi, with eighteen persons present.

Cora Norman led the discussion about the number, type and title of workshops to be conducted at the state meeting. Fourteen workshops and convenors were decided upon as follows: The Displaced Homemaker, Kathie Gilbert; ERA, Bobbye Henley; Women and the Law, Jean D. Muirhead; Consumer Power and Protection, Louise Spears; International Relations, Dr. Cleopatra Thompson; Rural Women, Edna Williamson and Marie Shields; Rape, Dr. Sarah Banks; Careers, Dr. Katherine Rea; Alternative Life Styles, Josie Brooks; Parenting and Child Care, Eva Bishop; Agents of Change, Dr. Cora Norman; Women in Politics, Sarah Johnson; Aging, Melerson Dunham; and Education, Dr. Katherine Rea.

A lengthy discussion was held concerning keynote speakers. It was announced that the Mississippi Opera Company had offered entertainment. The theme for the conference, "Mississippi Women: Awake and Aware", was chosen and a tentative schedule for the conference was established. Committee members reported on the progress being made and were again urged to submit names of women's organizations for publicity purposes.

A two-day meeting of the Committee was held at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Jackson, on **May 13-14, 1977,** beginning with a press conference and continuing with reports from the various committees.

The state was divided into twelve districts and persons were named to be responsible for travel arrangements for low-income participants. A pre-registration fee of $2.00 and an after-June 15, 1977 fee of $2.50 were adopted.

Patricia Black's proposals for exhibits were presented, the majority of the members voting for an exhibit on the highlights of the history of women in Mississippi. Honorary members were proposed and selected. Jean Muirhead explained the requirements of Public Law 94-167 under which the conference was established and funded.

The Executive Committee met with Bobbie Oatis and Cora Norman on **June 16, 1977,** at the Jackson IWY headquarters.

Jessie Mosley announced that Judy Denson's program on WLBT Channel 3 TV "Coffee with Judy" would permit IWY speakers each morning from June 27 through July 8.

The Executive Committee met at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Jackson, on **June 27, 1977,** with thirteen persons present.

Bobbye Henley, in charge of Arrangements, reported on the progress of her committee. A general discussion of the problems encountered in publicizing the state conference ensued. It was decided to purchase an ad in the **Jackson Daily News.** National IWY television spot announcements were sent to all television stations in the state. Jessie Mosley announced the following persons would appear on "Coffee with Judy": Janice Moore on June 27; Connie Slaughter on June 28, Jean Muirhead on June 29; Barbara White on June 30; Sarah Rouse on July 6; Kathie Gilbert on July 7; and Jessie Mosley and keynote speaker Velma Strode on July 8. Jessie Mosley and Kathie Gilbert were to be guests on Channel 29 on July 2 for a thirty-minute program.

Mary Rambert, member of the Nominating Committee, reported on nominations for delegates to the national conference. Jean Muirhead outlined parliamentary procedures to be used in the conference business meetings.

Jessie Mosley announced that Dorothy Dow had called from National IWY and changed the Federal Coordinator from Gloria Scott to Claire Randall. Mary Ramberg presented the names of the twenty women who had been selected by the Nominating Committee as delegates to the national conference.

The Coordinating Committee and sub-committee members met at 3:10 o'clock P.M. at the Holiday Inn Downtown, Jackson, on **July 7, 1977.**

1977. last minute problems and plans were dealt with at length, and then the various committees met separately to complete their responsibilities.

The Coordinating Committee met at 10:00 o'clock a.m. in the home of Dr. Kathie Gilbert, Starkville, Mississippi, on **July 16, 1977,** with nine persons present. A lengthy discussion ensued concerning the possibility of challenging the legality of the elected delegates to the National Conference. Kathie Gilbert was authorized to engage a CPA to audit the books of the Coordinating Committee.

HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE MISSISSIPPI IWY

Governor Cliff Finch
Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Gandy
Senator Ed Ellington
Senator Theodore Smith
Hon. C. B. Newman
Representative Gerald Blessey
Representative Fred Banks
Representative Horace L. Buckley
Bishop Joseph Brunini
Bishop Mack Stokes
Judge Lucy Howorth
Mrs. R. A. (Nannie) McLemore
Frank Barber

MISSISSIPPI IWY COMMITTEES

PUBLICITY
Willia Mae Latham Taylor, CHAIR - Grenada
Sarah Johnson - CO-CHAIR - Greenville
Sarah Banks - Jackson
Eva Bishop - Corinth
Josie Brooks - Corinth
Brenda Clark - Jackson State
Mary Jane Clark - Starkville
Carolyn Dillon - Tylertown
Clotee Jackson - Edwards
Elaine Jackson - Jackson
Inez Hooper - Greenwood
Jennifer Shaalan - Corinth
Alma Stead - Oxford
Helen Tedford - Marks
Edna Williamson - Grenada

ELECTIONS AND CREDENTIALS
Kathie Gilbert, CHAIR - Starkville
Katherine Rea - Oxford

FINAL REPORT
Janice Moor, CHAIR - Greenwood
Kay Barksdale - Greenwood
Marsha Elder - Booneville
Mrs. John O. Emmerich, Jr., - Greenwood
Mrs. Robert Powers - Greenwood
Mrs. Bervil Watson - Carrolton

NOMINATING
Dinane Danley, CHAIR - Greenville
Claire Harvey - Jackson
Betty Jo Hines - Greenville
Mary Ramberg - Jackson
Helen Tedford - Marks
Bertha Payne, First Alternate - Vicksburg
Louvenia Smith, Second Alternate - Vicksburg

REGISTRATION
Bobbie Neal Oatis, CHAIR - Jackson
Eva Woodard, CO-CHAIR - Jackson
Pamela brooks - Jackson
Melerson Guy Dunham - Tylertown
Debra Fountain - Jackson
Alferdteen Harrison - Jackson
Marcella Hopkins - Jackson
Clotee Jackson - Edwards
Elaine Thomas - Jackson

HISTORY
Patti Black - Jackson
Harriet DeCell - Yazoo City
Libby Nabachan - Starkville

FINANCE
Velma Rodgers - Jackson
Linda St. Martin - Biloxi

PROGRAM
Cora Norman, CHAIR - Oxford
Sarah Banks - Jackson
Helen Bernfield - Jackson
Eva Bishop - Corinth
Josie Brooks - Corinth
Melerson G. Dunham - Tylertown
Kathie Gilbert - Starkville
Bobbye Henley - Jackson
Sarah H. Johnson - Greenville
Jean Muirhead - Jackson
Katherine Rea - Oxford
Sarah Rouse - Clinton
Dorothy Taylor - Jackson
Cleopatra D. Thompson - Jackson
Edna Williamson - Grenada

ARRANGEMENTS
Bobby Henley, CHAIR - Jackson
June Farrar - Jackson
Claudia Parsons - Crystal Springs
Jackie Pierce - Jackson
Nancy Ruhl - Clinton

DECORATIONS
Bertha Payne, CHAIR - Vicksburg

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
Unita Blackwell - Myersville

DOORKEEPER
Tiny Geiger - Jackson

HOSTESSES
Sarah Banks - Jackson
Velma Champion - Jackson
Patricia Grierson - Jackson
Mayne P. Higgins - Jackson
Ernestine Hubbard - Jackson
Eddie Mae Jackson - Jackson
Minerva Johnson - Jackson
Callie Leffridge - Jackson
Laura Moman - Jackson
Dessie Price - Jackson
Evelyn Smith - Jackson

EXHIBITS
Mae A. Ballew, CHAIR - Oxford
Hal Ballew - Oxford
Patti Black - Jackson

FILMS
Margaret Smith - Vicksburg

PARLIAMENTARIAN
Jean D. Muirhead - Jackson

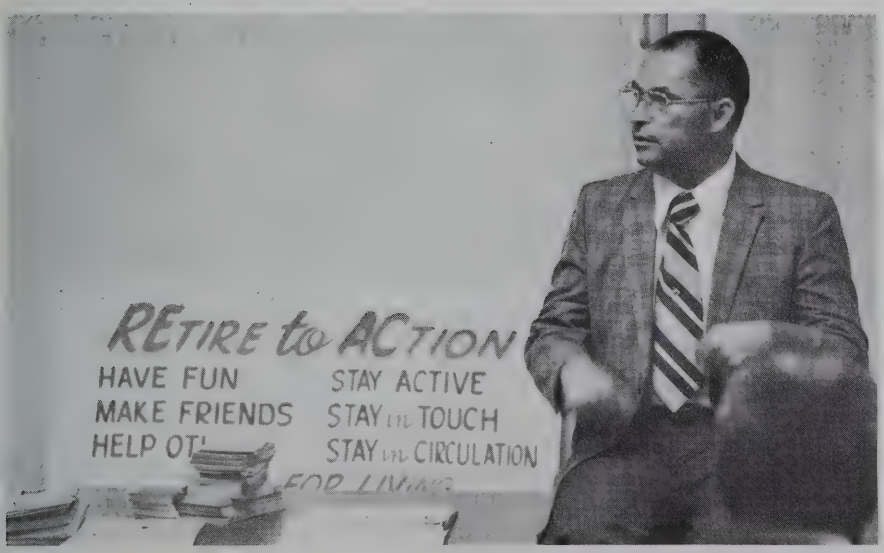
OUTREACH
Natalie Mason, CHAIR - Biloxi
Dianne Danley - Greenville
Billie Faith - Meridian
Karen Kester - Biloxi
Linda St. Martin - Gulfport
Jennifer Shaalan - Corinth
Carolyn Smith - Meridian
Thelma Zinner - Biloxi

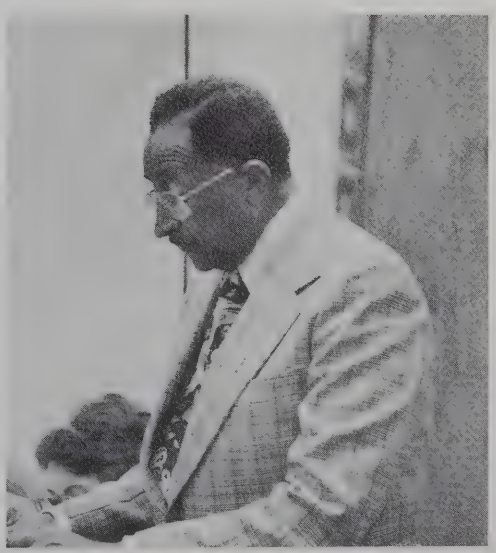
TRAVEL COORDINATORS
Louise Spears, CHAIR - Jackson
Melerson Dunham - Tylertown
Kathie Gilbert - Starkville
Sara Johnson - Greenville
Natalie Mason - Gulfport
Jennifer Shaalan - Corinth
Constance Slaughter - Forest
Willie Latham Taylor - Grenada
Helen Tedford - Grenada

CHILD CARE
Dorothy Taylor - Jackson
Edna P. Roberts - Vicksburg

FOREIGN CONSTITUENCY COMMITTEE
Cleopatra Thompson, CHAIR - Jackson
Barbara Barnes - Jackson
Frances Coker - Jackson
C. C. Coleman - Grenada
Gertrude Clark Dixon - Jackson
Paulette Hearon - Jackson
Maria Luisa Alvarez Harvey - Jackson
Mayne P. Higgins - Jackson
Karen Kester - Gulfport
Ruby E. Stutts Lyells - Jackson
Julia Vissotto Saunders - Starkville
Ruth Lee Shirley - Jackson
London Thompson - Bolton
Geraldine Torry - Itta Bena
Eva Y. Woodard - Jackson

Workshop Speakers





Workshops

WORKSHOP I — DISPLACED HOMEMAKER - Convener/Moderator: June Pieschel; Recorder: Suzanne Burnett; Resource Persons: Karen Kester, Dr. Delene Ree, Joy Timmes; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Cookie Carter.

WORKSHOP II — ERA - Convener: Bobbye Henley; Recorder: Betsy Walker; Moderator: Carol West; Resource Persons: Evelyn lockhart, Betsy Walker; Panel: Pro: Nancy Ruhl, Rhesa Barksdale, Harry Raybourn; Con: Jackie Pierce, Richard Barrett; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Claudia Parsons.

WORKSHOP III — WOMEN AND THE LAW AND THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE HOMEMAKER - Convener: Jean D. Muirhead; Recorder: Constance Ione Slaughter; Moderator: Thelma S. Zinner; Resource Persons: Ron Zimmerman, Department of Supervision and Regulation, Federal Reserve Bank, Atlanta, Georgia; J. C. Massey, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, Jackson; Fred Nolan, Director of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity Department, HUD, Jackson, Mississippi; C. A. Haycroft, Director of Jackson District Office Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Jackson; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Eleanor Miller.

WORKSHOP IV — CONSUMER POWER AND PROTECTION —— THE UNUSED CLOUT — Convener: Dr. Louise Spears, Associate Professor of Business Education and Administrative Services, Jackson State University, Jackson; Recorder: Mrs. Rena Fortenberry, Chairperson, Department of Business, Alcorn State University, Lorman; Moderator: Mr. William Cooley, Assistant Professor and Head, Department of Management, Jackson State University, Jackson; Resource Persons: Mr. Marshall Bennett, Assistant Attorney General in Charge of Consumer Protection, Jackson; Mrs. Bonita S. Bridges, Area Consumer Management Specialist, Cooperative Extension Service, Jackson; Dr. Phoebe Harris, Professor of Home Economics, Mississippi State University, Starkville; Dr. Katherine B. Weathersby, Director of Outreach Program, Jackson State University, Jackson; Reporter: Ms. Diane O'Brian, Business Education Consultant, State Department of Education, Division of Instruction, Jackson; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Mr. David S. Reeves, Faculty, Jackson State University, Jackson.

WORKSHOP V — WOMEN - NEW FORCE FOR WORLD CHANGE - Convener: Cleopatra D. Thompson; Recorder: Denise Gillespie; Moderator: Barbara Barnes; Resource Persons: Mary Brooks and Michael G. Zifcak; Assisted by: Suzy Eze, Maria Luisa Alverez Harbey, Siancose Markov, Hyacinth Nelson, Julia Vissotto Saunders, Bhupinder Sekhon, Rawiwan Thumchai, Liang Y-May, Frances Coker; Reporter; Lottie W. Thornton; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Karen Kester.

WORKSHOP IV - RURAL WOMEN - Convener: Edna Williamson; Recorder: Lillian Stribling; Moderator: Marie Askov Waters; Resource Persons: Mrs. Jane Sampler, State Equal Employment Opportunity Commissioner; Russel Ambry, Officer of the Governor of Mississippi, Inplant Training; Mamie Shields, Home Economist for Yalobusha County, Marie H. Taylor, Secretary to the State Director of the Farmers' Home Administration, Luvenia Smith, Realty Specialist, Real Estate, Vicksburg Corps of Engineers; MAudessa Smith, Director of Mississippi Rural Center, Social Agency of the Methodist Church, Columbia, MS.; Sergeant-At-Arms: Lucille Spears; and Reporter: Louellen Brown.

WORKSHOP IVV — RAPE - Convener: Dr. Sarah Banks; Recorder: Linda St. Martin; Moderator: Nancy Erwin; Resource Persons: Dr. Robert Hosford, Psychologist, Dr. Beverly Smith, OB-GYN, TOmmy Mayfield; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Mildred Tate.

WORKSHOP VIII — CAREERS: TRADITIONAL AND NON-TRADITIONAL - Convener: Katherine Rea; Recorder: Bobbie N. Oatis; Moderator: Shirley Chrisman; Resource Persons: Betty Beemer, George E. Rideought; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Lisa Worksman.

WORKSHOP IX — ALTERNATIVE LIFE STYLES — Convener: Josie Brooks; Recorder: Jean Carson; Moderator: Mildred Allen; Resource Persons: Dr. Mildred Allen, Dean of Counseling Services, Jackson State University; Dr. Alferdteen Harrison, Associate Professor of History, Jackson State University; Dr. Ada Cherry, Acting Chairman of Guidance and Counseling, Jackson State University; Dr. Virgia Gambrell, Chairman of the Department of Reading, Jackson State University; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Yvonne Brown.

WORKSHOP X — PARENTING: CHILD CARE AND TEENAGE PREGNANCY - Convener: Eva Bishop; Recorders: Joyce Allen, Irene Page; Moderator: David Evans; Resource Person: Samuel Tucker; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Patricia Ward.

WORKSHOP XI - WOMEN: AGENTS OF CHANGE - Convener: Dr. Cora Norman; Recorder: Imogene Borganelli; Moderator: Mary Libby Payne; Resource Persons: Betty Brenkert, John Clark, Sherry Green; and Reporter: Mary Godwin.

WORKSHOP XII — WOMEN IN POLITICS - Convener: Sarah H. Johnson; Recorder: Lois Magee; Moderator: K. Shalong Morgan; Resource Persons: Emily Baker, Unita Blackwell Wright; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Sarah Mills.

WORKSHOP XIII — AGING: PROBLEMS AND POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS - Convener: Melerson Guy Dunham; Recorders: Lorraine Jackson, Bobbye Sanders, and Rosia H. Hooker; Moderator: Dr. Carolyn C. Washington; Resource Persons: Don Poetker, Family Counseling Agency, Meridian, Mississippi; Thad Cochran, House of Representatives, U. S. Congress, Fourth Congressional District; Mrs. Fannie S. Gayden, President of Pike County Retired Teachers' Association; Dr. Aaron Henry, President National Black Council on Aging, Co-chairman, Democratic Party, State of Mississippi; Sergeant-At-Arms: Edna Johnson; and Reporter: Vera Bryant.

WORKSHOP XIV — WOMEN IN EDUATION, KINDERGARTEN TO COLLEGE - Convener: Dorothy Taylor; Recorder: Elnora Wiggins; Moderator: Ruth Bettendorf; Resource Persons: Alex Beck, Brenda Hankins, Glenna Link; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Ann Wetzler.

WORKSHOP XI — WOMEN IN ARTS AND HUMANITIES — Convener: Sarah Rouse; Recorder: Sandra Salloun; Moderators: Bobbye Henley, Judy Lewis; Resource Persons: Kathie Gilbert, Dennis Mitchell, Peggy Prenshaw, Ellen Walters; Reporter: Imogene Borganelli; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Thelma Workman.

WORKSHOP XVI — HEALTH CARE - Convener: Helen C. Bernfield; Recorder: Emelia Wellman; Moderator: Mary Ramberg; Resource Persons: PertToins, Child Advocate, Terri Eisler, Counselor, Ruth Werner, R.N., Helen B. Barnes, M.D.; Reporter: Connie Slaughter; and Sergeant-At-Arms: Ruth Armstrong.

Workshop Discussion Group

EXHIBITS

The exhibits of the Mississippi IWY Conference were arranged by Mae Ballew of Oxford. Several hundred delegates took advantage of the booths, films and arts although there was less interest in this phase of the conference than there might have been had the lobby not been so crowded with long lines of late registering delegates and lengthy lines of delegates waiting to vote.

Exhibits

MISSISSIPPI WOMEN ARTISTS EXHIBITED

THEORA HAMBLETT (deceased)
1 painting loaned by
Bank of Oxford, Oxford, MS

EUGENIA SUMMER
2 acrylic paintings
Faculty, MUW, Columbus, MS

MARY K. LOYACONO McCRAVEY
2 paintings
Forest, MS

ELIZABETH MITCHELL PAJERSKI
2 paintings
Vicksburg, MS

LUCY WEBB MILLSAPS
1 gouache
Jackson, MS

DORA McHENRY
2 watercolors
Oxford, MS

HALINA MITCHELL
2 silkscreens, 1 painting
Jackson, MS

JEAN THICKENS FRANCIS
2 collages
Tupelo, MS.

ELIOSE HESTER
1 painting
Sallis, MS

REBECCA DAWKINS
3 paintings
Jackson, MS

JANET WOOLARD
2 batik paintings
Jackson, MS

HELEN SHAPIRO
1 cloth colalge
Meridian, MS

MARIE HULL
2 watercolors, 1 oil
Jackson, MS, Loaned by
Dr. Hal L. Ballew, Oxford, MS

MARY GARNER ELLIOTT ANDERSON
1 batik
Oxford, MS, Loaned by
Dr. Hal L. Ballew, Oxford, MS

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE HOUSTON, TEXAS MEETING

AMONG THE SPEAKERS

1. Barbara Jordan 2. Rosalynn Carter 3. Jean Stapleton 4. Ruth Clusen 5. Carmen Votaw 6. Mary Anne Krupsak 7. Coretta Scott King 8. Margaret Heckler 9. Gloria Scott 10. Patsy Mink 11. Jill Ruckelshaus 12. Liz Carpenter 13. Maya Angelou 14. Margaret Mead 15. Esther Landa.

PLENARY

NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

Sam Houston Coliseum PLENARY AGENDA November 19-21, 1977

OPENING SESSION 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Saturday, November 19, 1977

Gloria Scott, Commissioner, Texas, presiding at opening ceremonies:
Presentation of Colors and Pledge of Allegiance: San Jacinto Girl Scout Council, Houston, Texas
National Anthem
Introduction of Presiding Officer Bella Abzug
Chair for first plenary session: Bella Abzug
Vice-Chair for first plenary session: Owanah Anderson, Texas
Greetings to Conference:
First Lady Rosalynn Carter
Former First Lady Betty Ford, Commissioner
Mayor Fred Hofheinz
Presentation of platform guests, National Commissioners and members of Congress
Seneca Falls Torch Presentation: Maya Angelou, Commissioner, California
Address to Conference: Bella Abzug
"Faces and Voices of American Women," Liz Carpenter, Commissioner, Texas
Introduction of keynote speaker by Lady Bird Johnson, former First Lady
Keynote Address: Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, Texas

SECOND PLENARY SESSION 2:00 pm-6:00 pm, Saturday, November 19, 1977

Chair for second plenary session: Ruth Clusen, Commissioner, Wisconsin
Vice-Chair for second plenary session: Celeste Benitez de Rodriguez, Senator, Puerto Rico
Remarks: Jill Ruckelshaus, former Presiding Officer of the National Commission on the Observance of IWY, Washington State
Judy Carter, Georgia
Credentials and Rules Committee Report
Reading of Declaration of American Women: Jean Stapleton, Commissioner, California, Coretta Scott King, Commissioner, Georgia, and Lupe Anguiano, Texas
Presentation of the National Plan of Action begins
Debate and voting on National Plan of Action begins

THIRD PLENARY SESSION 8:30 pm, Saturday, November 19, 1977

Chair for third plenary session: Commissioner Mary Anne Krupsak, Lt. Governor, New York
Vice-Chair for third plenary session: Esther Landa, Utah
Remarks: Commissioner Margaret Heckler, Congresswoman, Massachusetts; Patsy Mink, Assistant Secretary of State, Hawaii; Helvi Sipila, United Nations
Presentation and voting on the National Plan of Action continues

FOURTH PLENARY SESSION Noon to 8 pm, Sunday, November 20, 1977

Chair for fourth plenary session: Anne Saunier, Ohio
Vice-Chair for fourth plenary session: Elizabeth Duncan Koontz, North Carolina
Dialogue: Carmen Votaw, Commissioner, Maryland, and Cecilia Preciado Burciaga, Commissioner, California
Remarks: Margaret Mead, New York
Continued voting on National Plan of Action

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Monday, November 21, 1977

Chair for closing plenary session: Addie Wyatt, Commissioner, Illinois
Vice-Chair for closing plenary session: Allie Hixson, Kentucky
Remarks: Margaret Costanza, Assistant to the President, Washington, D.C.; LaDonna Harris, Commissioner, New Mexico; Brenda Parker, Texas
Next Steps: Implementation of National Plan of Action
New Business
Closing Remarks: Presiding Officer Bella Abzug
Adjourn

CHIEF PARLIAMENTARIAN: Marcia Romberg, Texas
ASSISTANT PARLIAMENTARIANS:
Lila Crowley, Texas
Bettie Mooney, Texas
Gloria W. Resnick, Ohio
Dr. Francine Merritt, Louisiana
OFFICIAL REPORTER:
Bobbie Ames

DOROTHY R. STEFFENS

Dorothy R. Steffens has been Director of the U.S. Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, since 1971. Here work spans the globe from Nigeria, where she was education consultant to the Peace Corps and organized women of the six Moslem states into the first Committee on the Role of Women in National Development, to England, where she set up a community development training program for workers with youth and old people.

She was one of the two Americans invited to Hanoi by the Vietnam Women's Union to represent the U.S. peace movement at the time of the signing of the Paris Accords. She has taught Group Dynamics and Human Development at Temple University, University of Maryland, and D.C. Teacher's College, and was employed by the National Council of Negro Women as Director of Training Programs. In 1966 Ms. Steffens coordinated the conference which evaluated summer programs for children and youth in Washington, D.C.

She recently returned from Cuba where she was the guest of the University of Havana and the Cuban Women's Federation, studying education and status of women. She was a participant in the July, 1974 seminar with leading Soviet Women in the USSR.

Her publications include magazine and newspaper articles on the subjects of education, peace, Africa, Cuba and the role of women.

Ms. Steffens lectures on Education in Cuba, Women in the Peace Movement, the U.S. Economy and Underdevelopment, and the Role of Women in Developing Societies.

VELMA McEWEN STRODE

Velma McEwen Strode is the Director of Equal Employment Opportunity for the U.S. Department of Labor. Previously Mrs. Strode served in the following capacities: Senior Community Relations Specialist, U.S. Department of Justice; Director of "A Future for Jimmy," D.C. Vocational Rehabilitation and the Urban League project; Director of the Cosmopolitan Community Center, Utica, New York; Director of the Fort Worth Urban League, Forth Worth, Texas; Industrial Relations Director, Baltimore, Maryland Urban League; radio commentator, radio broadcaster, Radio Station KNOK, Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; and Employee Relations Counselor, Department of Defense.

Professional organizations of which Mrs. Strode is a member include: The Academy of Certified Social Workers; the American Women in Radio and Television; the Board of Trustees of Saint Augustine's College, Raliegh, North Caronlia; the United Way Board of the District of Columbia, and representative from the District of Columbia on the Greater Metropolitan United Way Board; Advisor to the Capital Tower Project Home for Delinquent Young Women; and the Executive Women in Government organization.

Recent honors (now totaling 52) received by Mrs. Strode during her career include: the **American GI Forum** (1976) special award certificate for "Loyal support in maintaining the nation-wide efforts of the American GI Forum and thereby enabling maximum service to the Hispanic community"; and award from the **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission** (1976) in Dallas, Texas, for being an "outstanding resource person in developing and implementing affirmative action programs for minorities and women"; and award from the **National Black Women's Political Leadership Caucus** (1976); and award from **Saint Augustine's College** (1975) for "outstanding service to humanity"; an award from **The Conference of Minority Public Administrators** (1976) for "outstanding efforts to promote hiring and career development of minority administrators"; and a certificate from the Mayor OF Dallas, Texas, making Mrs. Strode an "Honorary Citizen" (1976)

"Mississippians Make Friends"

Mississippians Attending National IWY Conference
Houston, Texas

DELEGATES

Mrs. Harlan (Helen) Boone, Jackson
Dr. Curtis Caine, Jackson
Dorothy Ellen Campbell, Jackson
Pauline T. Earles, Jackson
Mrs. Patricia K. Fawcett, Oxford
Mark A. Godbold, Clinton
Dorothy Gunter, Jackson
Shelton N. Hand, Clinton
Dallas Wool (Mrs. George, Jr.) Higgins, Liberty
Mary Kerlee, Columbus
Elizabeth (Liz) M. Mitchell, Jackson
Eddie Myrtle (Mrs. Norris R.) Moore, Pelahatchie
Carolyn J. (Mrs. Homer, Jr.) Morgan, Hattiesburg
Homer G. Morgan, Jr., Hattiesburg
Jewel Vanera (Mrs. Wilford R.) Morris, Hattiesburg
Pat (Mrs. Teddy) Revell, Grenada
Norma (Mrs. William T.) Temple, Jackson
William T. Temple, Jackson
Evelyn (Mrs. Curtis) Caine, Jackson
Reid H. Smith, Liberty

ALTERNATES

Mrs. Janice Moor, Greenwood
Dr. Cora Norman, Oxford
Mrs. Barbara Pittman, Yazoo City
June Johnson,
Mrs. Melerson Guy Dunham, Tylertown

DELEGATES AT LARGE

Jessie B. Mosley, Jackson
Unita Blackwell, Mayersville
Karen Kester, Gulfport
Sarah Johnson, Greenville
Natalie Mason, Biloxi
Valerie Jackson
Joan Brown, Greenville
Merlena Walker, Jackson
Edna Williamson, Grenada

OBSERVERS

Dr. Sarah Banks, Jackson
Mrs. Bobbie Henley, Jackson
Dianne Danley, Greenville
Mrs. Velma Rodgers, Jackson
Linda St. Martin, Biloxi
Dr. Cleopatra Thompson, Jackson
Dr. Helen Bernfield, Jackson
Dr. Clara Grochowska, Jackson
Mrs. Claudia Parsons, Crystal Springs
Mrs. Claire Harvey, Jackson

TALENT

Emma Lewis, Jackson
Gladys Norris, Jackson

HANCOCK COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM
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312 Highway 90
Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 39520

IMPACT

Many suttle changes have been made due to the IWY, some obvious ones are; more discussion of issues relevant to women, more features on local, national radio and television.

The Houston Meeting helped us to realize that we are not alone; it showed us that the movement for Equal Rights includes representatives from all segments of society -- old, young, black, white, chicano and Indian. Polls show that the majority of the U.S. population support our goals.

The State Meeting made clear to us that sexism and racism are the same. Those who are against equal rights for women are also opposed to equal rights for blacks. Therefore both black and white women have to fight both sexism and racism or whichever one they may choose, it really means the same thing.

As Mississippi moves into the third century of America, the future is brighter for women in the sciences, business, and technical fields. It is brighter for the educational opportunities and educational involvement of women, yet the Mississippi IWY Conference brought into focus that a careful examination must be made to determine the needs and desires of the majority of Mississippi women in charting their goals for the future.

Women and girls must prepare themselves for the emerging job opportunities, too many women are employed in "dead end jobs". The full equality between men and women will necessitate changes in deep-rooted assumptions and attitudes about women's and men's roles in social and economic arrangements.

Mississippi women must be a part of the "natural voice" of the nation in speaking out on the education of women and girls. Such a voice must speak with clarity and as one. "Let neither complacency or timidity preface a few to carry the professional burden of many. It could be one of the tradegies of history if Mississippi women fail to participate fully in the "1975-1985 International Decade for Women," There is a need not only to work for women's rights, but to work for human rights around the world. There must be mutual respect for multinational cultural diversity which is essential to lasting peace.

The present is to close to us. The full impact of the IWY upon the womens movement will be fully appraised by historians in years to come. The opportunity for women to sit down to face the problems which effect their daily lives was something never before accomplished on such a large scale.

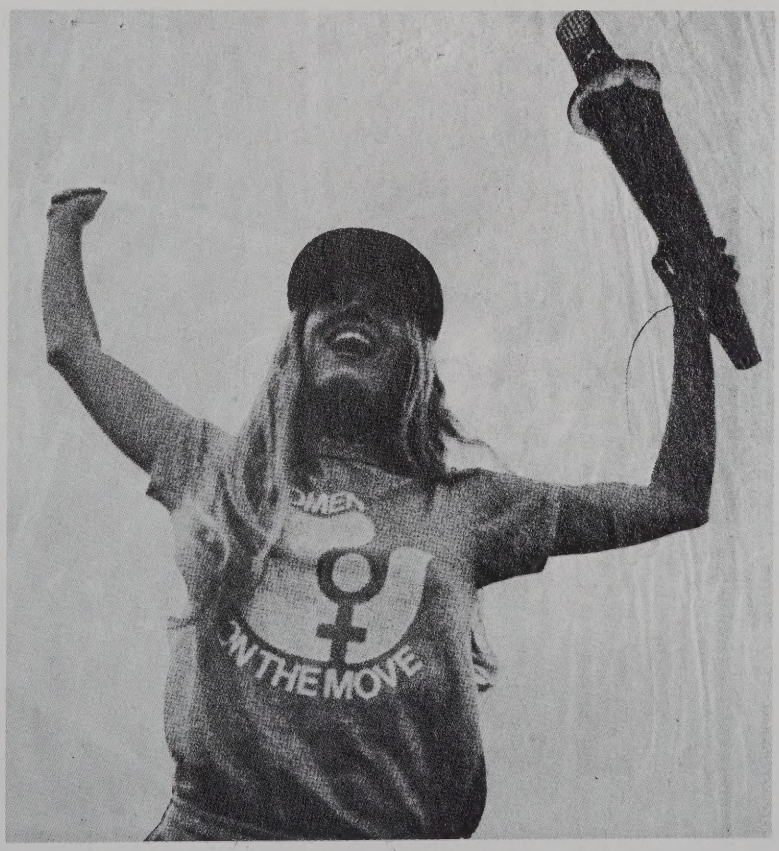
We have made contact with past womens movements in the past, suffrage, health care, labor unions. We now have a history and an awareness that was not present before. In the years ahead we must busy ourselves with the implementing of the plan of action. We must bear in mind "those who protest also contribute to progress," Mississippi women are on the move.

Jackson, Mississippi

WOMEN ON THE MOVE

Friday, November 18, 1977 —

In Celebration of Women!



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"...to form a more perfect union..."